





T H E
Compleat Fisher :
Or, The
True Art of Angling.

B E I N G
A Clear and Speedy Way of
Taking all Sorts of Fresh-Water
Fish, with the Worm, Fly, Paste,
and other Baits, in their proper
Seasons : How to know the Haunts
of Fish, and Angle for them in all
Waters and Weathers, at the Top,
Middle, or Bottom : Baiting of the
Ground, and Night Baits, Oyls, and
Ointments, Baits Natural and Arti-
ficial : The several Ways of An-
gling : To make Oyl of Asper, and
many rare Secrets, never before
made Publick ; containing the
whole Body of Angling, and Myste-
ry of a Compleat Angler.
To Fish in Hackney River, the best
Stands, and how to make the best
Tackling to Fish there.

By J. S. A Brother of the Angle.

The Fourth Edition, Enlarged

*London, Printed for G. Conyers at the
Ring, and J. & B. Sprint at the Bell
in Little-Britain. 1716. Price 6 s.*

F 988.2.4 *

Reader,

THE many Editions of this Book shews the kind Reception it has met with. It is stor'd with such Variety of choice Instructions and curious Secrets as never appear'd in print before: In short, it comprehends all that is needful to make a compleat Angler.

And let me tell you, Angling of all Recreations, is the most Innocent, Contemplative, and least Chargeable: and it much contributes to a healthful Constitution of Body, by the pleasant Airs that breath from wholesome Waters, to refresh and enliven Nature; and indeed, it has been held in great Esteem by the Wise of all Ages. Vale. J. S.

At the Ring in Little-Britain
are Sold,

THE Young Sportsman's Instructor, in Fishing, Fowling, Hawking, Hunting, &c. p. 6d.

The Experienc'd Fowler, or Gentleman's Recreation, pr. 6d.

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY

GIFT OF

DANIEL B. FEARING

30 JUNE 1915

Instructions for rightly preparing Angling Tackle, as Rods, Lines, Hooks, Floats, Plummetts, and other matters required to accomplish the Angler, &c.

IF we consider Recreations aright, they are intended to refresh the Mind, and unbend our Cares after Toil, Labour or Study, and therefore ought not to be pursued with too much fatigue, lest they appear more like to business than pleasure, and so in the end become pall'd and tiresom; but when leisure Hours will admit, they are very convenient.

ent to sweeten the Cares of Life. Among these, Angling is held by all the Ingenious the most diverting for those that are Contemplative, and tho' it requires much Ingenuity, yet it is perform'd with little Labour; yet, as in all other curious Matters, Rules are necessary to be observ'd in it, and to that end I shall, as Experience, the best Master, teaches proceed gradually, to lay down such, as perhaps the greater part of Mankind are Ignorant of, and therefore according to the Method I have chosen, it will be necessary first to speak of Tackle, without the Knowledge of which, the Angler must be like one that undertakes Business and wants Tools to accomplish it.

As for your Tops, Haste of Yew Switches, gathered about the middle of *December*, when

of Angling.

most free from Sap, are accounted very good, though the two following, or preceeding Months, may reasonably serve, run them over a gentle heat, to make them tough; let the Stock and Tops be taper, smooth and strait, the pieces of each Rod suitable in an exact symmetry, free from knots, or else they will be deficient in Casting, and never strike well, nor be truly pliable, but at a not be apt to break, and spoil your Sport. To keep them in good order, bind them close to a streight Pole, and so let them continue long, that they may not warp, fasten a Loop of Silk or Horse-hair at the end of it with Shoemakers thread, that the Line may have play on it, and tho' many use Silk Lines, yet I prefer the Horse-hair as the best; and in twisting or braiding, observe an exact

evenness, for one Hair being shorter than the rest in a Link the whole stress will lye on that and in breaking, renders the rest much the weaker, and often a good Fish is lost for want of this observance ; make your knots sure, that they slip not as for the colour of your Hair it being free from Nits or Goutiness, which some call Botches, the pale, waterish colour is the best to deceive a clear stream ; but in Whetish or Muddy Water, you may Chuse indifferently a Line, for the Ground Angle need not be so strong as that you intend for your Rod at the Artificial Fly abating in the latter a Hair from top to bottom, in every Link from one or two, to five or eight, or more.

As for the Hook, it must be long in the Shank, and of compass somewhat inclining to roundness

roundness, for if the Shank be strait, the Point will stand outward; fasten the Hair on the inside of the Shank, to preserve it from fretting, whether you Angle at top or bottom; proportion your Hook for strength and compass, to the number of hairs you Angle with next it, neither use great Hooks to small Baits, nor great Baits to little ones; *Barbel* and *Chub* must have large Hooks, *Carps*, *Eels*, *Tench*, *Pearch*, *Breams*, those of a much lesser size, and Experience teaches, *Trouts* in clear Water, *Grayling*, *Smelts*, *Roaches*, *Salmon-Smelts*, *Dace*, *Ruff*, and *Gudgeons* are soonest taken with small Hooks, though many use great ones for the *Trout*, especially in Muddy Water, yet the *Salmon* must be Angled for with a Hook, according to his strength; Hooks for *Dub-fies* should be generally small,

and so for Cod-baits, but larger for Worms, yet such as some use for the latter, do not generally take in Clear Water: When you whip your Hook, which is stiled Arming, do it with Silk lightly rubb'd with Shoemakers Wax, twisting it round on the lower part of the Line, almost to the bent of the Hook on the inside, having first smoothed the Shank of the Hook with a Whetstone; and for Worms let it be red coloured Silk, but for Cod-bait, Pastes, &c. white.

Floats should be of Cork for River Fishing, but for Ponds, Meers, and other standing Waters, Quill and Pens will do very well, and in very slow Rivers, especially when you are to Angle near the Top with tender Baits or Pastes; as for your Cork, let it be the finest, free from holes or flaws, bore it through with a small hot Iron, thrust

of Angling.

7

ger
me
ne.
en
is
ilk
ers
he
off
he
ed
a
et
or
or
s,
a-
ry
s,
to
n-
r
e
it
n,
ff

thrust in a Quill sizable, shap'd
with a Knife to the likeness of
a Pyramid, Egg, or Pear, a
proportionable bigness, and
with a Pumice-stone finely
smooth it ; run your Line
through the Quill, and wedge
it in with the uppermost hard
part of the Quill, the smaller
end of the Cork being towards
the Hook, and the bigger to-
wards the Rod ; let the Cork
be so poised with Lead on the
Line, that the Quill standing
directly upright, the least
Bite or Nibble may sink the
Cork.

To Lead your Line, do it with
a Shot cloven, and then closed
exactly on it ; but not above
two of these on any Line, and
that an Inch and a half, or two
Inches distant from each other,
and the lowermost plumb, se-
ven or eight Inches from the
Hook ; but for a running Line,

A 6

either

either in clear or muddy Water, nine or ten Inches, and if you in a River find a Sandy bottom, it being full of Wood, with few Stones, shape your Lead a Dimond-fashion, or to that of a Barley Corn or Oval, bring the ends very close and smooth to the Line, yet make it black, for the brightness will scare the Fish.

It is very necessary to have a landing Net and Hook, or you may lose many a large Fish, by breaking line or hold, before you can Land him. The Net you may fasten to the end of a long manageable Pole: As for the Hook, it must be a large one with a Scrue, to scrue into a Socket at the end of a Pole, and when your Fish is entangled, clap it into the Month of it, and draw it to Land; but this latter is cheifly for *Barbel*, *Salmon*, and other strong Fish.

As

As for your Pannier, let it be of light Osier twigs; neatly Woven and Worked up, and to be the more compleatly prepared on all occasions, have in a readiness divers sorts of Hooks, Lines, Links ready twisted, Hair and Silk of several colours, small strong Thread, Lead Plummets, Shoemakers Wax, and Floats of divers sizes, Line-cases, Whet-stone, Pen-knife, Worm-bags, Boxes, Baits, Scissars. And thus having pretty well accoutred my Angler with Tackle, it will next be necessary to know what Baits he must use, for on it mainly depends success or frustration.

Baits

*Baits bred on Trees, Herbs,
Plants, Worms; their
season, and what Fish
take them; when and
how, &c.*

BAits for the sundry kinds
of Fish are numerous, and
many of them must be consider-
ed in their proper Season, or
they are of no value; as for
Earth-worms, they are account-
ed a general Bait, they and
Gentles are always in Season,
Earth-Bobs only from *Martin-*
mas till the latter end of *April*,
Cow-turd-bobs from thence till
Michaelmas, Oakworms, Worms
bred of Trees, Plants and Herbs,
Palmers, or Wool-beds, Flies,
Caterpillers, Cod-baits, &c.
all the Summer. And here it is
requisite to note, that when one
sort

fort of Baits comes in Season, the other are not useless. If you are to Angle in clear Water at the Ground, it will be necessary to have with you Cod-baits, Worms, Gentles and Bobs, to try which will best take, but in muddy Water for *Trouts*, with the running Line; you are requir'd, for better Sport, to have Tagtails, Gilt-tails, Brandlings, Meadow-worms, some scour'd in Moss and Water, others directed with a Riddle, and some again with heavy Earth; for almost at the same time they will take them, some one way done, and some another, as Experience has often demonstrated.

But to come nearer, and shew you what your Baits are, how shap'd, and to be chosen.

1. The Garden-worm, Lob-worm, or Treachet and Dew-worm,

worm, are one and the same, though in divers Places their Names thus alter, and this Worm, one of the greatest size, is an excellent Bait for *Chevin*, *Salmon*, *Barbel*, or *Eel*, tho' the smaller of the same kind are not much affected with them: That with a broad Tail, a red Head, and a Streak down the Back is the best, they are found in the latter end of the Summer, in the Evening, in Gardens, Church-yards, and may be driven out of the Earth with the Juice of Walnut-Tree Leaves and Water, pour'd on their Holes.

2. Marsh or Meadow-worms are found in Marshy Ground, or in Banks of Rivers in Fertile Mould, being somewhat blewish, and being well scour'd, it will be tough and lively, and is a very good Bait, especially in *March*, *April*, and *September*, for *Pearch*,

Pearch, Flounder, Bream, Smelt, Gudgeon, Salmon, Trout, Grayling; tho' many, and not without Success, use from *Candlemas* to *Michaelmas*, and in Moss and Water it may be kept fifteen Days before Use.

3. Brandlings, Red-worms, and Gilt-tails, are found in old Dunghills, rotten Earth, Cow's Dung, Hog's Dung, or Tanner's Bark, when it is us'd and cast by. The Brandling and Gilt-tail are especially good for taking *Pearch, Tench, Bream, Salmon, Gudgeon, Smelt*; they are taken by *Trout* and *Grayling* in muddy or clear Water, and the Red-worms, well scour'd, are taken by *Tench, Pearch*, and *Bream*, and best in muddy Water.

4. The Worm call'd Tag-tail is of a Flesh Colour, having at his Tail a yellow Tag near half an inch long, found
in

in Meadows, after a Shower of Rain, or in Chalky Ground, in *March* and *April*, if the Weather be temperate; this is held an extraordinary good Bait for a *Trout* in cloudy Weather, and a little scouring will serve it.

5. The Palmer-fly, Palmer-worm, Wool-bed, and Cankers, are counted one and the same, being bred on Herbs, Trees, and Plants, not being properly a Caterpillar, yet the shape of one, being in the outward Part rough and woolly, being excellent Baits for the *Chub*, *Grayling*, *Trout*, *Dace*, or *Roach*. The Palmer-fly and May-fly are held the Foundation of Fly-Angling, and have usually good Success.

6. The Oak-worm, Caterpillar, Cabbage-worm, Crabtree-worm, or Jack, Colwort-worm, or Grub, may be long kept with the Leaves of those Trees
or

or Plants, that breed them in Boxes with holes for Air, or in Withey Bark. They take *Chub, Roach, Dace, and Trout*, the Oak Worm being preferable to any bred on Trees or Plants, being the best taken on the top of the Water, though you may go as deep as you will with them; to get these, search the Colewort or Cabbage Leaves, beat the Oak, Crabtree, or Haw-thorn; some of them are hard and tough, others smooth and soft, some horned-tailed, others have them on their Heads, some smooth, others hairy.

7. Bobs, of these there are two sorts, they are found in Sandy or Mellow ground, especially after Plowing: The one is justly called the Earth Bob, White Grub, or White Bait, being much bigger than a Gentle, having a Red Head, the

the Body soft, and full of white Guts, the other is lesser, and somewhat blewish, found many times in digging on Heaths; they are excellent Bait still after *Mid-April* to the first of *November*, to take *Tench, Bream, Trout, Chub, Roach, Smelts, Salmon, Dace, and Carp*; they must be kept in an Earthen Vessel, with the Earth you find them in, covered very close to keep out the Cold and Wind; some boil them about two minutes in Milk before they use them, which makes them tougher and whiter, others dip them in Honey or Gum-Ivy for *Carp, Bream* and both ways prove successful.

8. Gentles or Maggots, may be kept with Flesh, and scoured well with Wheat Bran; they are easie to be had, or bred by Putrefaction. These are sometimes added to a Worm on the Hook, sometimes to a Dub-fly,

fly, and so take *Salmon-Smelts*, but oftner used by themselves two or three on a Hook; the day before you angle, put them into a Box with Gum-Ivy, and it will prove successful to your sport; they are good Baits for *Tench, Barbel, Bream, Bleak, Gudgeon, Trout, Dace, Chub, Carp.*

9. Flag-worms, or Dock-worms are the same, found among Flags, in old Pits or Ponds, *viz.* The small Fibres of the Flag-roots, by opening little husks, it is Pale, Yellow, or White, longer and slenderer than a Gentle, and these may be kept in Bran, and are good Baits for *Bream, Tench, Roach, Carp, Dace, Bleak* and *Pearch*: when you Fish with it for the *Grayling*, use the smallest Line, and the Float, and Fish nine or ten Inches from the ground.

10. The Bark-worm, or Ash-Grub,

Grub are all one, being very full and white, bent round from the Tail to the Head, the Head being red, and the parts very tender, resembling a young Dorr or Humble-Bee, and may be used all the Year, but particularly from *Michaelmas* to the middle of *May* or *June*, and except the Fly and Cod-bait, is the best for *Grayling*, *Dace*, *Roach* and *Chub*; it is found best under the Bark of an Oak, Ash, Elder, or Beach; especially when fell'd, and they have lain about a Year, or in the hollow of these Trees when standing, where decayed or rotten; it is a very tender Bait, and best on a bristled Hook, by running the Hook in at the Head and up the Belly, till it stays on the bristle, and no part of the Hooks point appears out of it; they are kept well in Wheat-Bran, and take the *Grayling* with the smallest Line:

Line: Angle with the Float, keeping the Bait seven or eight Inches from the bottom; but if you Fish with it for *Roach*, *Chub*, or *Dace*, use Indifferent Tackle.

11. There is a Bob found under a Cow-turd, called the Cow-turd Bob, from the beginning of *May* to *Michaelmas*; some call it a Clap-bait; this is like a Gentle, but bigger; you may keep it sometimes in Moss, but the best is to keep it in Earth, dug up under the place where you find it; it is a very good Bait for *Trout*; if you Angle with it on a bristled Hook, on the top of the Water, and in the Water, it is taken by *Chub*, *Carp*, *Bream*, *Tench*, *Dace* and *Roach*.

12. The Cod-bait, Cad-bait, Cadisworm, or Caseworm, are one and the same Bait, though of three sorts. The one is found under Stones that lie loose
and

and hollow in small Brooks, shallow Rivers, or very fine Gravel, in a Case or Husk, and when fit for purpose, they are yellow; they are bigger than a Gentle, having a Black or Blewish Head. Another sort is found in Pits, Ponds, slow-running Rivers, Ditches, in Cases or Husks of Rushes, Waterweeds, Straw, &c. and are by some call'd Ruff-coats, or Straw-worms; these are accounted Principal Baits for *Bleak, Salmon Smelts, Tench, Bream, Chub, Trout, Grayling, Dace*. The next is a green sort, found in Pits, Ponds or Ditches, in *March*, coming before the yellow ones, for they are not in season till the end of *April*, and in *July* are out of season; the third sort is proper in *August*, being smaller than the other. These must be kept tender in Woollen bags when you carry them for use, but

ut to keep them long alive,
ut in a green Withey Bark,
aken off and hollowed like a
Trunk, lay it in the Dew a night
o moisten it.

*Natural Flies for Baits,
their Seasons, and where
to be found, for what
Fish they are proper, &c.*

TH E Ant-flies are found
in their Hills, about the
nd of *June, July, August*, and
most part of *September*, with the
Earth you take with them, they
may be kept in Glass Pottles;
two or three of these fixed on
the small Hook, are certain Baits
for *Chub, Roach* and *Dace*, if you
Angle under Water not above
ix Inches from the bottom.

2. The Brood of Humble

B Bees

Bees, Hornets and Wasps, are good Baits, dry them over a Fire, or in an Oven, so not being over done, they will last long, and sit handsomely on the Hook, to take *Chub, Eels, Bream, Flounders, Roach, or Dace*, some boil them, but then they will not keep long; Hornets, Wasps and Humble-Bees, may used alive, when their Wings are a little grown, and their Legs short, especially for the *Chub* as also the Black-Bee, breeding in Clay Walls.

3. The Fern-Fly or Fern Bob, is found among Fern from *May-day* to the end of *August*, it is thick and short of Body, has two pair of Wings, the upper most reddish and hard, which may be taken off, the last ten days of *May* the *Trout* will take it every day, and the *Chub* refuses it no part of the Summer.

4. The

4. The Stone-fly and Green-drake. The first of these is found under hollow Stones at River sides: The Body of it is pretty thick, and almost as broad at the Tail as in the middle, it is of a curious brown colour, streaked a little with yellow on the Back, but much more on the Belly; he uses much the Water, and seldom lies though he has large Wings that double on his Back, he comes in about *April*, and continues till about the end of *June*, and is a very killing Fly of *Roach*, *Dace* and *Bleak*, and the Green-Drake has his Wings standing high like a Butter-fly, and his motion in flying the same, the Body is in some of a Paler, in others of a darker Yellow, ribbed with Rows of Green, long and slender, his Tail turns up to his Back, having three long whisks at the end of it, he

B 2 comes

comes in about the middle of ~~May~~, and continues till *Midsummer*, and is found by Stoney Rivers, with this Bait for *Flounders*, *Dace*, *Bleak*, *Roach*, and *Pearch*.

5. The great Moth that has a considerable big Head with whitish Wings, is to be found in Summer Evenings in Gardens, on Trees and Plants; it speedily takes *Chub* if you dabble with it.

9. The Hawthorn-fly is black found frequently on Hawthorn-trees, when the Leaves are but out, the best use this can be but to, is to Dabb in a River for *Trout*.

7. The Ash-fly, Woodcock-fly or Oak-fly, is the same, under different names, and holds good from the beginning of *May* to the end of *August*, its of a brownish colour, and usually found in the Body of an Oak, or Ash, standing

standing with his head downwards towards the Root of the Tree, and is a very good Bait for a Trout. And to make speedy work, put it long ways on the Hook, and at the point a Cod-bait, and let them sink six Inches or a Foot into the Water, raise it gently, and having a short dibbing Line, you need not fear *Trouts* in clear Water, and instead of a Cod-bait, if you have it not, you may use an Oak-worm, or Green-Grub, you may dub this, or make it Artificially with Isabella, coloured Mohair, and bright brown Bears-hair, wrapped on yellow Silk. These being the Principal Flies used in Angling, I now come to mix'd Baits of another Nature.

*Miscellany of Baits very
Taking, and much in
use.*

1. **S**almon Spawn boiled, and fastned on the Hook, is a very good Bait for Chub, and in some Rivers for Trout, it being advantageous to the Angler especially in Winter and Spring if he keeps it salted; especially in places where Salmon used to Spawn, for thither the Fish gather to expect it.

2. Grasshoppers the latter end of June, all July and August, if their Legs and outward Wings be taken off, especially for Roach, Trout and Grayling, and here you may put a slender plate of Lead on the shank of your Hook, slenderest at the bent, then draw your Grasshopper over it, after put a lesser Grasshopper

Grasshopper, or Cod-bait at the point, and keep it moving, lifting up and sinking again, a *Chub* will also take the Bait freely, and so will a *Trout* if you dib with it.

3. The Water-Cricket, Water Louse or Creeper is but one, these take *Trout* in *March* and *April*, and sometimes in *May*, if you Angle at the River: It is to be Angled with in clear Water, within a Foot of the Bottom, some let it drag on the Ground. This Creeper is bred in Stoney Rivers, and held to turn into a Stone-fly about the middle of *May*, that Fly not being any where seen before.

Lamery Pride, or Seaven, is a very good Bait for *Chub* and *Eels*, Night or Day; this is no other than little live Things like small *Eels*, no thicker than a Straw, and are to be found in

B 4 Sandy

Sandy Muddy Heaps, near to the Shoar in Rivers.

Snails, the Black and White are good Baits for *Chub*, very early in the Morning, *Trout* and *Eels* take them on Night-hooks, but the Bellies of the Black may be slit, so that the White may appear, some dib for *Chub* with House-Crickets.

For *Chub*, *Barbel*, *Roach*, and *Dace*, you may Angle with Cheese or Oat-Cake, especially at the Ledger Bait; the Cheese you may wrap up two or three days in a wet Linnen Cloth, or moisten it over with Honey and Water.

Black-berries, Mul-berries, Cherries, or Ras-berries, take the *Chub* in Ponds or Rivers. Lip-berries, or Aron-berries, being, when ripe, of a transparent red, found in dry Ditches, or dry Banks, fit for use in *July* and *August*, two of these on a Hook

Hook will take a *Roach*, and four a *Chub*.

As for a *Pike*, he is a greedy Devourer, and therefore most-ly delights in Fish, Frogs, &c. therefore your Baits for him must be small *Dace*, *Minnows*, *Roach*, *Salmon-Smelt*, *Gudgeon*, *Bleak*, *Millers-thumb*, small *Pearch* with the back Fins cut off, also *Trout* and *Eels* well scour'd in Wheat-bran, to take away the Slime; and indeed most sort of small Fish he takes, and how you are to manage them on your Hook, I shall tell you when I come to treat of the taking him in the River of *Thames*. *Periwinckle*, a kind of Water-Snail, is much used for *Roach*, being taken whole out of its Shell: *Sbrimps* taken out of their Husk or Shell may be us'd as a Bait for *Pike* or *Chub*. The *White-Blite*, with much Seed, by some call'd *All-seed*, is a proper Bait for Fish.

*Pastes proper for the
Angler.*

Pastes are of several kinds, though tending to one and the same end: For a *Chub* or *Chevin*, make a Paste of the fattest Old Cheese, the Suet of a Mutton Kidney, a little strong Runnet, mix them equally and finely together, then put as much Powder of Turmeric as will give them a fine Yellow Colour.

For *Roach* and *Dace*: Grate fine Bread into a little fair Water, wherein Gum-Ivy has been soak'd. For the *Barbel* in *August*, make a Paste of New Cheese and Mutton Suet. For *Roach* or *Dace*, you may put a little Butter to your Crumb-bait, and colour it with Saffron. For *Carp* or *Tench*, mix Crumbs of

of Bread with Honey, though for a *Carp* I reckon this the surest.

Take Bean-flour, or for want of it, Wheat-flour; the inside of the Leg of a young Rabbit, Catkin, or Whelp, white Bees-wax, and Sheeps Suet proportionable; beat them in a Mortar till well incorporated, then moisten the Mass with clarify'd Honey, and work it up into little *Balls*, before a gentle Fire.

The *Chub* in Winter takes a Paste made of strong Cheshire Cheese, beaten with Butter and Saffron till it become a Lemon Colour.

Stoned Cherries, fine grated Manchet, Sheep's Blood and Saffron make a good Paste for *Roach*, *Dace*, *Bleak*, *Chub*, *Trout*, *Pearch*; and for the *Chub*, only put a little Rusty *Bacon* in it.

Another excellent Paste is

B 6 made

made of the-fattest old Cheese, Mutton Kidney-Suet, strong Runnet, Anniseed Water, Wheat-flour, and the Dripping of Rusty Bacon held against the Fire.

What is to be observed in Angling with Pastes.

1. **Y**OU must Proportion the quantity of your Paste you put on your Hook to the smallness or largeness of the Fish you Angle for, as in other Baits.

2. You may try Oils upon any of these Pastes, and as you see your Success, so continue the one or the other. And the best for this purpose, are Oil of Polypody of the Oak, Oil of Petre, Oyl of Ivy, and as properly

perly Gum of Ivy, and Assa-
foetida.

3. To strengthen any Paste,
and so prevent its washing off
the Hook, it will not be amiss
to beat a small quantity of fine
Flax cut short, Cotton, Wool, or
fine Lint, among them, which
will prove very binding; those
that you would have keep long,
put a little white *Bees-wax* into
them, and anoint them with
clarify'd Honey, the latter you
may wipe off when you see
occasion.

4. Paste, or tender Baits
must not be Angled with in
rapid Streams, but on a small
Hook in Pits, Ponds, Meers, or
slow Running Rivers: Your
Eye in this sort of Angling must
be quick, your Rod somewhat
stiff, and a nimble Hand to pull
up, or else the *Bait* and *Fish* will
quickly bid you farewell. This
is better done with a Quill-float
than

than a Cork, which sooner shews the Nibble or Bite, and if you then be not very quick, your Labour is lost, and with these Pastes Success is usually had for *Bream, Bleak, Chub, Roach, Dace, Carp, Tench, Barbel.*

*Oils and Ointments useful
in Angling.*

TAke Oil of Ivy-berries, anoint the inside of an Oaken *Box* with it, and put three or four Worms, or other live *Baits* into the *Box*, shutting it close; but keep them not there too long, lest the Strength of the Oil kill them, but take these out and put in more, and so they being scented with the Oil, it will allure the Fish the more readily to take them. This may
be

be done in the same manner, for want of Oil, with Gum-Ivy, which is a Tear that flows out of the Ivy-Stalks when slit, or wounded by piercing.

Oil of Spike and dissolv'd Gum-Ivy, are held to be much attracting, the *Bait* being anointed with them.

Oil of Polypody, of the Oak, *Venice* Turpentine, and new Honey is very good, if eight Inches of the Line next the Hook be anointed with it, but then there must be two or three Hairs, for it will not well stick to a single one; however, do not clog your Line with it.

Chymical Oil of Lavender, or for want of it, Oil of Spike six Drops, three Drams of *Assafoetida*, *Venice* Turpentine one Dram, Camphire one Dram, make these into an Ointment, and anoint them as the former;

mer; this in clear Water wonderfully takes *Gudgeons*.

Man's Fat, and the Fat of the Thigh-bone of a Heron, makes an Ointment that rarely fails, and is esteem'd by those that have try'd it; the best of any, being a new Experiment.

But let me commend to you above others this: take the Oils of Cammomil, Lavender, Anniseed, each a quarter of an Ounce, Man's Fat, Heron's Greefe, and Cat's Greefe, and the best Affaetida, each two Drams, two Scruples of Cummin Seed, finely beaten to Powder, *Venice* Turpentine, Camphir and Galbanum, of each a Dram, add two Grains of Civet, and make them into an Unguent; this must be kept close in a glazed Earthen Pot, or it loses much of its vertue, anoint your Line with it as before, and
your

your expectation will be strangely answer'd.

Oil of Asper so much noised about, and said to be extracted from a Fowl call'd the *Osprey*, is now found to be a mixture of the Oil of Spike, Lavender, and refin'd Oil of Turpentine, which however has a considerable Effect in still, or slow moving Waters; and observe in this case, your Line must be appointed every second drawing up, or the strength of the scent being wash'd off, you may expect your Sport to cease.

I might now speak something of Artificial Flies, and other Artificial Baits, but not to keep the Angler too long from the Water, I shall have occasion elsewhere to treat of them.

Fishes

Fishes Haunts proper to be known.

IF you are not certain of any Waters to Fish in, your Business is to try the most likely and promising, *viz.*

Where Trees fallen, Wood, Rushes, Weeds, or Rubbish are in Rivers, or likely large Ponds, there are Store of Fish promised, for thither they resort for Warmth and Shelter; but it is very troublesome Angling there.

The next are Weirs, Weir-pools, Mill-streams, Flood-gates, Piles, Posts, Pillars of Bridges, Cataracts and Water-falls, Ed-dies, Whirling Pits, the side of a Stream, in the Summer especially; for then they love to Bask and lie shallow, unless the Weather be excessive hot; tho' I may herein except *Carp, Eels,*
and

and *Tench* in the Winter, find for the generality the Deep as the warmest, in a gentle Ebb and Flow, by the beating of the Waters, at any turning or opposing Bank, there is good biting, so that strait Rivers are not so advantageous to Angle in, as those that are winding or crooked, having Eddies, Pits, and Pools in them, occasion'd by the Waters beating on the Points and Doublings; thence being forc'd back, and into those Pits and Creeks, the Fish will get in some considerable numbers many times, where the Water is narrow, try both sides; but to come somewhat nearer.

The *Salmon* is found in large swift Rivers that ebb and flow, Gravelly and Craggy. The *Trout* mostly in purling Brooks and Rivers that are somewhat swift, and have Sandy Bottoms. The *Carp* and *Tench* love still Waters,

Waters, or such as gently move, where Weeds or Roots of Trees are near to shelter them on occasion. *Eels* generally cover Muddy Rivers, Ponds, or slimy Sands, especially those of the larger size. The *Pike*, *Bream*, and *Chub* are mostly found in Sandy or Clay Rivers, Brooks or Ponds, wherein Bushes, Bulrushes, or Flags grow. The *Barbel*, *Roach*, *Dace*, and *Ruff*, for the most are found in Sandy or Gravelly deep Rivers, covering to be under the Shade of Trees. The *Umber* is likeliest to be found in Marley or Clayey Streams, running very swift. The *Gudgeon* likes best a Sandy or Gravelly Bottom; yet for all this, a Tryal of divers Waters will not be amiss, where you may suspect any Fish are likely to breed; for Experience in this Art is the surest Instructor.

Times proper above others, to Angle in, according to the Water, Weather, &c.

IN the hottest Months, take your opportunity when it is Cloudy, and the Water is moved by gentle gales.

2. When the Floods have carried away the filth, sudden showers incumber the Waters too, and the Rivers, &c. retain their usual bounds, looking of a palish colour.

3. When a violent Shower has Muddled or Troubled the water, and after that the stream runs swift, for then they usually seek for Creeks, and Shelter, and in the little Rivulet running into the great one.

4. If you Fish for *Carp* or *Tench*, do it early in the Morning viz. a little before Sun rise, till eight, and from four in the After-

Afternoon, till Sun-set, when the days are of a convenient length, *June, July, and August*, but in *March*, the beginning of *April*, and the end of *September*, they refuse not to bite in the warmth of the day, the Wind being still.

5. If you angle for the *Salmon*, the best time is from three in the Afternoon till Sun set, and in the Morning as before, his proper Months are *May, June, July, and August*. The *Barbel* bites best in *May, June, July, and the beginning of August*, from five to eleven in the Morning. The *Pearch* and *Ruff* all day in very Cool and Cloudy Weather. The *Bream* bites from Sunrise till nine or ten in the Morning in Muddy Water, especially when the Wind blows hard, for the most part keeping in the middle of the River or Pond in *May, June, July, or August*.

6. The

6. The Pike Bites in July, August, September and October, about three in the Afternoon, in gentle Water, and a clear Gale. In Winter he bites all the Day long, and in April, May, and the beginning of June, early in the Morning and late in the Evening. As for Roach and Dace, they bite all the Day long, if the Weather be not in the extremities of Heat or Cold, on the top of the Water. The Gudgeon bites best in April, and till he has spawned in May, and if the Weather be cool, till Wasp time, and at the end of the Year all day long in a gentle stream; observe when you Angle for him, to stir and rake the ground, and he will bite the better. As for the Flounder though he is found only in Ebbing and flowing Rivers, that have communication with the Sea, he bites freely all day in April, May
June;

June, and July, in a swift Stream; he will bite in the still, but not near so freely.

Ground Baits to gather and feed the Fish, that you may better and readily know where to find them, &c.

THE Ground-Baits, or for Baiting the Ground, are Barley or Wheat soft boiled, which, for prevention of scattering, you may mix with some pleasant fresh Earth, Ale-grains, Wheat-bran steep'd in Sheep's blood, Blood clotted, dried, and cut in small pieces, Periwinkles bruised in their Shells, black and white Snails, Worms cut in sunder, and made up in little Balls of Earth. The Guts of Fowl, the small Guts or Livers cut small, old Cheese and Oat-Cakes bruised together, Malt grossly

grossly ground, these especially gather *Tench, Dace, Carp, Chub, Roach, Bream, and Barbel*; and the more you feed them, they will be the surer to keep to that Place, and be the fatter to reward your Pains when taken; and these throw in a little above the Place you Angle at, if it be moving Water, for before they ground, the Stream will carry them some distance from the Place you throw at.

These are especially good when you Angle with the Cod-bait, Gentle, Wasp, or Paste; for it will make them take your Bait more eagerly, and with less suspicion. And this directs you to the *Pike* or *Pearch*, for if those Fish you Angle for be not there, and neither others have circumvented you, nor the Season improper, then are these two Devourers of Fish lurking thereabouts; and the rest dare

not approach for fear of being made a Prey; therefore use suitable Tackle and Baits to take them, and then other Fish will boldly approach.

When you Angle in clear Water, keep out of Sight as much as may be, shelter'd behind some Bush or Tree, or by standing as far off as possible, keeping your Eye only on the Surface of the Water, where your Float is, and to effect this the better, your Rod must be proportionable in length, to answer the Place you Fish at, and especially at the Ground, and a long Rod and Line at Artificial Flies are very necessary, an Angler must add Silence to his Patience, and move his Body as little as possible may be, for the Fish are very quick-sighted, and naturally fearful, particularly the *Chub*, *Carp*, and *Trout*.

When

When in a clear Water you Angle at the Ground, or with a Natural Fly dibble, always do it going up the River, but in muddy Water, or when you do it with a Dib-fly, use the contrary; if you have hooked a Fish, and suspect the Strength of your Line or Rod, let him play and tire within the Water, before you offer to bring him near the top, be sure to keep the Rod bent, lest running to the end of the Line, he break his hold, or the Hook, and if he be tir'd, and have in a manner done flustering, bring him towards the top, and if there be occasion, use your Landing Net or Hook; and take this for a general Rule in hooking all strong Fish.

How to take the Salmon and Salmon-Smelt by Angling, &c.

THE *Salmon*, tho' not found in many Rivers in *England*, is of principal Note for River Fish, though it as well belongs to the Sea. The chief Rivers noted for them are, the *Thames*, *Severn*, *Trent*, *Lon* at *Lancaster*, and about *Cockersand-Abby* at *Workinton* in *Cumberland*, *Bywell* in *Northumberland*; *Durham*, *Newcastle on Tyne*, *Dee* in *Che-shire*, and some Rivers in *Wales*, as *Usk*, *Wye*, and *Tivy*; he commonly is found in the Water deep, and about the middle.

His best Biting is at 9 in the Forenoon, and three in the Afternoon, in clear Water, especially when the Wind blows against the Stream, but not very roughly: Then take the Baits directed, and the strongest Tackle, for when he is struck, he

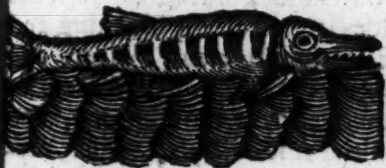
he plunges and leaps; though not usually does he endeavour to go to the end of the Line.

The younger sort of these are so tender mouthed, that unless you fasten two Hooks almost in a quarter of a Circle asunder, they usually break hold. For the great *Salmon*, the principal Bait is well-scour'd Dew-worms, for the *Salmon Smelt*, the Brandling, Gilt-tail, Meadow-worm, &c. and for Flies, he takes them Natural or Artificial, and if you use these, a Cod-bait or Gentle at the top of the Hook is effectual; this with the Dub-fly takes *Salmon Smelts* beyond expectation; but for a greater *Salmon*, if your Fly be Artificial, make it very large, with six Wings one behind another, that by that and the different colours he may suppose it, as indeed it will appear in the Water, a Cluster of Flies. He is

taken at the Ground with a running Line or Float, and sometimes he Bites lower than Mid-water at Ground-baits ; he is taken with Oak-worms, Dub-flies, Cod-baits, Clap-baits, and the larger sort sometimes take the Minow and Loach, and for these you may Angle with a Wyer-Ring on the top of the Rod, letting the Line run thro' it to a great length, and when he is hooked, and is spent with plunging, fix your Land-hook in his Mouth, that is screw'd to the end of a Pole, as directed, to land him. *Salmon* is the best of Fish, very sweet, and of extraordinary Nourishment ; Eat it moderately, it restores in Consumptions ; if pickl'd, it strengthens the Stomach, and begets a good Appetite.

Several

*Several Ways to take the Pike, and
where to find his Haunts, &c.*



TO find this Greedy Fish,
you must cast in Sandy,
Chalky, or Clayey Places, some-
what near the Banks, for he
coveting Solitude, often lurks
in holes to surprize other Fish,
as they fearlessly swim by; some-
times he shelters among Bul-
rushes, Water-Docks, Weeds,
or Bushes; and then he Bites
about the middle of the River
or Pond, at Mid-water, and for
him you must keep your Bait in
a gentle motion, and at all times
to be above a Foot from the
Ground; he rarely Bites in the
Night, for then he is for the
C 4 most

most part gone to rest in his retirement. In *April, May, June*, and the beginning of *July*, he does it most freely Morning and Evening in clear Water, and a gentle Gale in still Water, or a moderately moving one, and in the rest of *July, August, September*, and *October*, his best Biting time is about Three in the Afternoon, in Water as before, in Winter Months, if the Weather be pleasing, and the Water clear, he will not refuse to Bite at any time, tho' the most certain time is about Three of the Clock in the Afternoon, if particularly in a gloomy, cloudy Day, but the Water muddied with Rain, there is no certainty of him; his beloved Baits are, *Gudgeon, Roach, Dace, Minnows, Salmon Smelts* no bigger than *Gudgeons*, very small *Pikes*; in the Winter Months a piece of an *Eel*, fat *Bacon*, a young *Trout*

or

or *Pearch*, if the Pricks be cut
off the Back, &c. but all his
Baits must be very fresh, and a
live one tempts him much the
sooner, which may be put on
by drawing the Line between
the Skin and the Ribs of the
Fish, and so on the Hook, fast-
ning it in the Gills, and this you
may use in Trowling, but here
have your Tackle very strong,
with Wire about a Foot from
your Hook, that next to it Silk,
and the rest of the Line strong
spun Flax, come as little as you
can near the Weeds, lest they
spoil your Bait before the *Pike*
comes at it, fasten the Tail of the
Bait to the Joint of the Wire,
and having fix'd your Tackle,
that the Line may run and play,
let so much *Lead* be at the *Hook*,
as may carry the Fish's Head
downwards, as if after playing
on the top, she was going to
the bottom, and when you have

sunk it so, that it is at a convenient depth for the *Pike*, slack your Line, and give it scope, that he may run to his hold, and there pouch or swallow it, which you may know by the moving of the Line in the Water, then with a smart Jerk hook him; some use no Rod with this, but Lead and Float, holding the Line in their Hands on Links, and indeed there are several Methods taken, tho' all to the same Purpose; wherefore for brevity's sake I omit them.

Angling for him at the Snap is to give him leave to run a little, and then strike, which must be done the contrary way to that which he moves, therefore a double Spring-Hook is useful in this way of Angling especially, for a great *Pike* usually will hold the Bait so fast in his Teeth, that you may fail to pull it out of his Mouth, and likewise

of Angling. 55

wise strike him, when if he holds the Spring-hook ever so fast, the Wire will draw thro' the Bait, and so the Spring opening, you will frequently hook him on the outside of his Mouth. Though Trowling is surer than this, and more practicable, yet this is best used in *March*, when the *Pike* Bites ill, then upon Spawning they are sick, and lose their Stomachs, Bait this as the former, and he may be taken this way when he is so. A *Pike* is more excellent than *Carp*: Sick People may eat it: Cross-bone in the Head good against Falling sickness; Spawn or Row provokes Vomiting and Stool: Heart eaten cures Fevers; they live Two Hundred Years.

Other brief Rules for Pike Angling

1. **W**HEN the *Pike* has taken your Bait, observe how

how he moves; if slowly, give him time, and you will rarely miss him; let not your Bait fall in one and the same place above once or twice, for if he take it not, then he is farther off.

2. If you find, after he has taken the Bait, he lies still, as sometimes he will, move your Hand gently, to get Notice which way his Head lies, lest in striking you happen to pull the Bait out of his Mouth, if that cannot be discern'd, strike directly upward; At the Snap have strong Tackle, and give two lusty Jerks quickly one after another, fastening a Swivel at the end of your Line, which must be us'd at Trawl and Snap, and your Armed Wire must be hook'd on it.

3. For the Snap, have a hollow piece of Lead, that it may pass over the Wire and end of the Hook, which you draw within

in the Fish's Gills or Mouth, that, as directed, it may keep the Head downward, and at either of these Baitings, if you cut away one of the Fins of the Bait close at the Gills, also behind the Vent, and one on the contrary side, it will play the better, and seem more lively.

4. Be sure to raise your Hand in casting, when the Bait is about to fall into the Water, so that by dashing, it may not fright him away, and when it is sunk a little, draw it near the top towards you a little, and so let it fall again; and if your Wire-Hook is join'd with a Steel Ring, the Bait will play better, and sink more direct: For Snap, *March* is the chief Month, *February, April, May, September, and October* for the Trowl; and tho' a large Bait invites him most, yet a lesser takes him more surely, but
let

58 *The true Art*

let your Bait be suitable to your Hook ; and this Way with a *Minow, Loach*, or small *Gudgeon*, you may take *Pearch* ; and if possible, always Trowl in clear Water in a Windy Day, and then a *Gudgeon* will do well for the *Pike*, but if a Dark, Cloudy Day, *Roaach, Dace*, or *Bleak*, are to be prefer'd.

To snare a *Pike* ; when you perceive him raise, and staying near the Surface of the Water, fasten about a Yard and a half of strong Packthread to a Pole, and at the end of it a running Noose of small Wire, softly putting it over his Head, with a quick Jirk throw him to Land ; this is often done to Young *Pikes*, but the Older are more wary, tho' sometimes catch'd by this means, especially in Ponds, as also when they come out of Rivers, and go a Frogging in Ditches in *May, June*, and *July*.

To

To find and Angle for Pearch.



THIS Fish delights in a good Stream, of a moderate Depth, abiding usually close by a hollow Bank, Pebbly, Gravelly bottom'd, with Green Weeds growing in it; being commonly a River Fish: He Bites little in Winter, but in the middle of the Day, yet in Summer all Day, if the Weather be Cool and Cloudy, and the Water shaken with the Wind; but more freely from Seven till Ten in the Morning, and from Two in the Afternoon till Six, and sometimes till Sun-set; if in the middle of Summer, you must

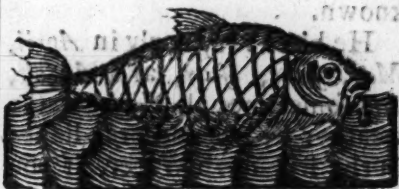
must look to him when he is struck, for he's a very strong Fish, and will struggle hard and long; they generally go many together, and if there be a great many in a Hole, if you light right on them, you may at one standing catch the *greater* part, if you give them time to Bite; for if you are too hasty in striking, you may chance to miss your Aim; he takes almost all manner of Worms; as, Dew-worms, Red-worms, Meadow-worms, Cod-baits; also the *Minow*, *Loach*, small Frogs, Wasps, Hornets, and Humble-Bees.

He is best taken with a Float, resting the Bait about six inches from the Ground, and sometimes he is taken about Mid-water; some use a Ledger Bait on the Ground, but the first Depth has usually the best Success.

He

He is good against Fevers,
and the Stone in his Head good
against the Stone in the Reins.

To Angle for the Carp, &c.



THis Fish has always been
in great esteem, making
many industrious to find Ways
to take him. He delights in
sandy or muddy bottoms, in still
deep Water, and in green, or
Grass growing under Water,
by the sides of a Pond or River,
tho' in a good Pond he thrives
best. He is very wary, and
hard to be catch'd. His first
spawning-time is about *May-*
day,

62 *The true Art*

day, breeding three times a year, and wonderfully encreases if he likes the Water he's in: He lives long, tho' most disagree as to the particular number of Years, and indeed I see no reason how that should be exactly known.

He bites very early in *April, May, June, July, and August*, and sometimes all Night if the weather be hot and Star-light; in the still deep Water, if you angle in the Day-time, keep out of sight as much as may be, therefore provide a long Rod: He is very strong, and must play when struck, or he'll carry off your Hook by breaking the Line or Rod.

Use always the Float and Quill, angle for him sometimes above, and sometimes below mid-water, as the weather is, tho' in mid-water he is the certainliest taken, especially in

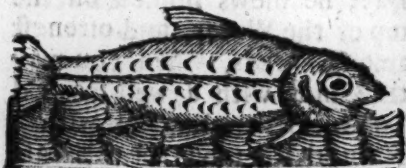
a Pond, but in Rivers he is very shy: Lay a Ground-bait for him with ground Malt.

The Baits you use on your Hook must be Gentles, two or three on the Hook, then put a little square bit of Scarlet on the top of the Hook above the Bait of Gentles, dipped in Oil of the Rock, or Petre; this is held an excellent Bait; he takes likewise Bobs, Wasps, sweet Pastes, Marsh-worms, Flag-worms, Gilt-tails, Dew-worms, the Cod-bait and Bread-grain boil'd soft; and in *June* and *July*, in the heat of the Day, he shews himself on the top of the Water, and ofteneft among Weeds, when you may take him with a well-scowr'd Lobworm, angling as with a Natural Fly; but in this case keep out of his sight as much as possibly you can. A *Carp* is a numerous breeder, as spawning
three

three or four times a Year, therefore as a Caution to those that stock Ponds with them, let them be warm, and secure from cold Winds, fenc'd by Trees, and the place allowing good Feed, for otherwise (the Pond being over-stored) they will starve themselves and other Fish that are with 'em.

Carp is a fat and sweet Fish, nourishes much, his Fat curing Diseases of the Nerves, Gall, and helps Dimness of Sight.

Observations on the Tench, and the best way to angle for him.



THE *Tench* is reckon'd a very good Fish, and much coveted, yet delights in muddy

dy or foul Water, and among Weeds, the Ponds that are suitable for *Carp* please him better than the Rivers, and in Pits he thrives better than in either, if they be agreeable to Time, tho' in some Pits they will not (notwithstanding they breed) come to any bigness; and in others they will not breed at all, but they will thrive wonderfully, beyond expectation: This, I believe, may happen where the Storer is not skilful to distinguish males from females, but by an unlucky guess put in all of one sort. Tho' he covets Mudd, yet his Fins are very large; and to know him from others, there are two little Barbs at the Angles or Corners of his Mouth; his Scales are small and smooth, and about his Eyes are Circles of a golden colour. He is accounted the Physician to the rest, so that the de.

devouring Pike, being sick, is cured by him, and will not, unless Hunger provoke, hurt or destroy him, tho' he spares not his own Kind. This Gift of healing is said to be by a Medicinal Balm sweating from his Skin, which the sick Fish take in as *Physick*; and indeed, his Flesh is good in Consumptions (or any languishing of the parts) for Men. They bite best from Day-light to Eight in the Morning, and from Four in the Afternoon till Sun-set; but in the hot Months, if the weather be not tempestuous, they many times bite all Night. The best Season is from the beginning of September to the end of May, and about the beginning of July the Tench spawns.

He takes the Cod-bait, *Marlb-worm*, *Gentle*, *Flag-worm* or *Redworm* well scowr'd; and to make it take the better, you may

may dip your Bait in a little Tar-water just before you use it, tho' the plain Bait many times pleases him well. For want of the former Baits, you may use *Pastes* sweetned with Honey, or Wasps.

Angle for him with a Float of Quill, letting the Bait into the Water two foot, sometimes more or less, but no great matter. His Vertue read next page.

The Bream's Haunts, and how to angle for him.



THE *Bream* is a large, but bony Fish; is found in Ri-

Rivers and Ponds, but in the latter, if convenient, he delights most: He is long growing, and will be very fat, and is almost as great a breeder as the *Carp*.

Breams swim divers together in a gentle stream, loving a sandy or clayish bottom, and the deepest and broadest part of the Water. Your best time in the Season is to angle for him from Sun-rise to eight a-Clock, in a moderate stream, the Water being a little slimy or muddy, especially when a good brceze troubles the Water; and in windy weather, if in a Pond, he generally keeps the middle, and there you are most likely to find him. In the Afternoon, your time is from three or four till Sun-set; but in a darkish windy day he bites at any time.

He is angled for with much success from the beginning of

April

April till Michaelmas, and may be taken at other times, except the very cold Months.

He takes as Baits Flagworms, Wasps, Gentles, Grasshoppers, their Legs being off; Red-worms, Gilt-tails, and Meadow-worms well scour'd, Bobs, and Under Water-Flies, especially the green ones; when he bites, he runs off with the Bait to the further Shoar, or as far that Way as he can, and therefore you must give him play, for though he seems a Fish made strong enough, he will not much struggle, but after two or three turns he falls on one side, and may be easily landed.

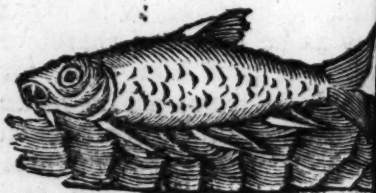
Here you must Angle with a Float, so that the Bait may touch the Ground; you may make a ground Bait for *Bream* with Malt, and it will draw them together. A *Bream* is a boney Fish, and of as good

D

Nou-

Nourishment as the *Carp*, the
Tench is but indifferent Nourishment;
 flit and laid to the Soles of the Feet cure Fevers
 laid alive to the Navel it cures the Jaundice.

The Barbel, how to find and take him by Angling.



THIS Fish is very strong and takes his Name from the Barbs that hang at his Mouth, is curiously shap'd with small Scales. In the hot Months you will find him in the swift strong streams, tho' he shuns the Current, and delights somewhat

more

the more out of the Rapidity, under Shades of Trees, lurks under Trees that are fallen into the Water, and Weeds, where they rout in the Sands like a Hog, and so Nest; some suppose him to eat much Gravel and Sand, but I rather fancy he seeks for Insects, or other Food that heat and moisture produces in the bottom of Shallows, yet sometimes he is found in the deep and swift Waters, especially at Weirs, Bridges, or Flood-gates, where he shelters among Piles, or on hollow Places, holding by the Moss or Weeds, to prevent his being carry'd away by the Stream, when Winter is coming on, he retires to the still deep.

His best biting time is early in the Morning, that is, from the Sun rising till Ten, and from Four till the Sun sets, and is often later, and this principally happens from the 20th of May

to the latter end of *August*; you must be wary in taking of him, for he is very subtil, and struggles long, unless well managed; many are found together frequently, but in *April* they are little worth, for then is the Spawning time.

As for the Baits you intend to take him with, Care must be taken that they are very sweet, such as give him not distaste. Angle for him with a Float, and let down the Bait, that it may touch the Gravel; he takes Bobs, Humble-Bees, Gentles, not over-scour'd, Dew-worms, new Cheese, Red-worms, Paste, the young Brood of Wasps, and Hornets; and so cunning he is, that you will be cheated of many a Bait in Angling for him, if you have not a watchful Eye, and a quick Hand; for he will nibble and suck it off, and run to one, when your Float sinks, and

and you attempt to strike, whether he has the Hook in his Mouth, yet often if you strike the contrary way his Head lies, you may take him by the Nose, and give him play till tir'd, or else if he be any thing large, unless your Tackle be very strong, part of it goes with him; he is not an over-pleasant Fish to eat, by reason he's somewhat dry, and very full of Bones. Some say he is easy of Concoction, his Eggs and Spawn vomit and purge violently.

The Trout's Haunts, the best way to angle for him, and his Baits.



TO be most sure of finding the Trout, address your Angle

gle to small purling Brooks, or swift gliding Rivers, not too great, observe whether their Bottoms are Pebble, Gravel, or smooth Stones; for on the sides of these he usually has his Residence, tho' he is often found in the deep, especially a large one, also behind Banks, Blocks, Stones, at Turnings or Points, where the Stream much beats, or makes a kind of Whirling; he loves Coverture and Shade, from whence he may most easily seize his Prey, but his Hold or Hole is usually in deep Places; he's seldom found among *Weeds*, rather among the Boughs of Trees that hang in the Water, or shady Bushes; he plys in Spring at the tail of the stream, but, as many other *Fish* do, about the middle of *May*, at the upper end, staying long in a Place, if his Hold be near it; in the hot Weather he leaves the Deep, and

s, or and goes into the sharp streams
too among Gravel, unless by the
their excessive Heat of the Weather,
el, or Droughts ensue, and then the
sides still Deep delights him.

Refi. This *Trout* may be taken by
und Dibbing, or if the Weather be
urge dark, cloudy, and windy, you
cks, may take him with the Cast-fly,
nts, he is in Season from *March* till
ats, *Michaelmas*, but chiefly about
ng; the end of *May*, when he's in the
de, best Season; his Body is adorn'd
asi- with red Spots, the Female is
or counted better than the Male;
es; they much affect to be near the
ds, Source or Spring of Rivers, and
of where they run on Lime-stones,
er, there the best *Trouts* are found.

Angle for him at the Ground
n, with a running Line, with two
at or three small Pellets of Lead,
r omitting the Float, or you may
f take him by Float-Angling at
t the Ground, if you are dexter-
ous at Angling with a single
D 4 Hair,

Hair, two Links from your Hook, he is much sooner taken than with two or three Hairs, tho' you must be cautious he break not the Line; and this is better done at the bottom than top, because there he has not so much force to shoot and spring, as on the top, and a single Hair next the Hook, if well chosen and strong, will take one of 13 Inches, if there be Water-room, free from Wood and Weeds.

He bites best in a Water that after a Flood is clearing, or rising, somewhat troubled, cloudy and windy Weather; early in the Morning is the best time from the middle of *April* to the end of *August*, from Sun-rising till near Eleven, and from Two till Sun-set; but at Nine in the Morning, and Three in the Afternoon are the best times, at the Ground or Fly as the Water

is

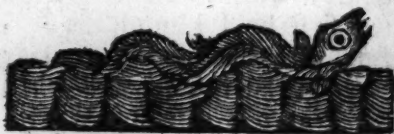
is most agreeable, in *March*, the beginning of *April*, *September*, and till the 15th of *October*, and then you must cease Angling for the *Trout*, to the end of *February*, after a Shower has fallen in the Evening; you will find him rise at a Gnat. In warm Weather you may dib for him with the Minnow or Loach.

As for other Baits than what I have mention'd, the principal are at the Ground, Brandlings, Gilt-Tails, Tag-Tails, Meadow-worms; and for the greater, Dew-worms well scour'd, the two first hold him all the Seasons, either in muddy or clear Waters, the rest do well when the Water is discolour'd with Rain, you may use a Cod-bait, either for top or bottom, but then it must be in clear Water, he taketh the Palmer-fly or Wool-bed, and all sorts of Artificial and Natural Flies at the

D 5 top

top of the Water. When you Bait with small Fish, as the Minow, Bull-head, and Loach, cut off their Fins, and the Gills of the latter, and so with these Instructions, and a little Practice to ripen Experience, depend on Success. He is equal in goodness to any Fish, his Fat is good against Hemorrhoids, or Clefts in the Fundament.

The Eel, the Haunt, Bait, and taking them, &c.



THERE is many Disputes about the Generation of *Eels*, whether they generate and breed as other Fish do, or proceed from Mud and Putrefaction,

on, enliven'd by heat and moisture; but my Business being to instruct you how to come by them, I shall lay no stress on that Nicety, since *Eels* there are, and for their delicacy, are call'd by some, *the Queen of Fish*.

His Haunts, in the Day-time, are usually under the covert of Tree-roots, Brushwood, Planks, or Piles, about Flood-gates, Wears, or Mill-dams, in hollow holes in Banks, they mostly delight in foul still Water, or at least such as runs very slow, with Ousy Sand, or Muddy bottoms, in Pits, Ponds, and Meers.

Bait for him with a young Lamprey, Dew-worms, scour'd Earth-worms, any very small Fish, their Fins cut off, Guts of Chickens, or other Fowl, cut in small lengths, lean Beef, the Brood of Wasps; the four first take him Day or Night, but
most

most of the rest are properest
for Night-Hooks.

Take him in the Day by a Ledger Bait, by Snigling, Bobbing, Brogling; as for Brogling and Snigling, the best Method I have known is this: get a long and strong Line, your Hook of a small compass, baited with scour'd Red-worms, or Dew-worms, having one end of your Line in your Hand, place very easily the upper end of your Hook in the Cleft of a Hazle-Rod of a convenient length, so that it may slip out as you please, and where you fancy the *Eel* to be, let the Bait leisurely sink, and supposing it swallow'd, by giving time leisurely, draw him up by little and little, else lying double, with the Strength of his Tail, your Line is endanger'd. This you must practice in hot Weather, the Waters being low.

As for Bobbing, take large Earth-worms out of good Mold, scour them well in Moss, and run a strong Thread with a Needle thro' them endways, as many as will lightly wrap a dozen times round your Hand, make 'em into Links, and fasten 'em to a strong Packthread or Whipcord, two Yards long, or more; make a Knot about six or eight Inches from the Worms, put about three quarters of a pound of Plummets, made Pyramidically on the Cord, by the means of a Hollowness or Hole bor'd thro' it, and let it sink to the Knot, fix the Cord to a manageable Pole. Angle with this in muddy or cloudy Water, in the sides of the Streams or Deeps; when the *Eel* or *Eels* tug, let them be well fasten'd by the Teeth, before you draw 'em up, then do it gently, till on the top, and then hoist them quickly

ly to Land : Many by this way have been taken at a time.

Some, near *Eels* Haunts, sink a Bottle of Hay loosely bound, stufft with Fowls Guts and Liver, cut in long Shreads over-Night, and coming early the next Morning, drawing it up hastily by the Rope, fasten'd to the Band, find large *Eels* bedded in't, for the sake of the *Prey*. This may be done with a bundle of Brush-wood, out of which, upon pulling up, they cannot so easily get.

Eels are sweet, afford much Nourishment, broil'd or roasted eat best. Fat is good for Blows, drop'd in the Ears, it helps old Pains and Deafness; it helps Baldness.

To Angle, &c. for the Grayling or Umber.

THough this Fish has two Names given it; the former

mer for the lesser sort, and the latter for the greater, yet both are the same Species.

Their Haunts are in Marly Clay, Clear Water, and swift Streams, the large is accounted eighteen Inches, being in Season all the Year, but their prime is in *December*, when his Gills and Head are Blackish, and his Belly a dark Grey, stud-ded with black Spots, he will Bite freely, but is very tender Mouth'd, therefore be careful he break not his hold, tho' he will not struggle much, as being very faint when he is hooked. Angle for him in or near the middle of the Water, for he is always more apt to rise than descend, wherefore he's chiefly taken by a Ground Bait, rather than a running Line; use for him a Float of Cork, if you particularly angle for him, but
for

for a *Grayling* and *Trout*, the running Line is the best.

As for Baits, he takes *Brandlings*, *Gilt-tails*, *Meadow-worms*, *Tag-Tails*, the *Bark-worm*, *Flag-worm*, *Cod-bait*, *Natural* or *Artificial Flies*, particularly the *Camlet-fly*, and a *Fly* made of *Purple Wool*, and one made of *Tawny Chamblet Hair*, also the *Earth-Bob*, and *Clap-bait*. I find no *Physical Vertue* in him, he affords good *Nourishment*: I believe that the bloody end of the *Head*, if it toucheth *Warts*, and then bury'd, it takes them away.

The Pope or Ruff, his Haunts, how to angle for him with proper Baits, &c.

THE *Pope* or *Ruff* is one, in *Shape*, *Nature*, and *Disposition*, like the *Pearch*,
tho'

tho' in bigness not exceeding a large *Gudgeon*, but of a more pleasing taste ; he Bites eagerly, and many of them are usually together, where the Water runs slowly, and is deep in Sandy Places, fifty of them have been taken at a standing. You may bait for him with the small Red-worm, Gilt-tail, Meadow-worm, and other Baits proper for the *Pearch*, he biting at the same time the *Pearch* does ; you may ground Bait with new turned up Earth of a Fallow, also with a clear Sand, you may take him with a single Hair, the Link next the Hook, the Body of it is rough, and hath prickly and sharp Fins ; it has its Seasons and Nature like the *Pearch*, and is a very wholesome Fish, eating short and tender.

Ruff, the Stone in the Head helps the Stone in the Reins, Pleurisy, and other sharp pains.

The

The Bleak or Bley, to Angle for him, &c.

THIS Fish makes sport, tho' not much valued, not being very wholesome, it is many times destroy'd by a Worm that breeds in his Stomach; in hot Weather he bites eagerly, and you may fish for him with several Hooks on one Line, and if you catch 3 or 4 together on the several Hooks, do not fear the breaking of your Line, tying them about half a Foot one above the other; he is easily taken with Gentles, small Red-worms, and the Dub-fly, which must be of a sad Brown; angle at middle Water, or at the top, for he is usually in Motion: There is another sort of these, call'd the *Sea-Bleak*, better and wholesomer than this, call'd by some the *Sea-Camelion*, because in the Water he seems of-
ten

ten to change his colour. He is as good as any *Carp*.

*The Chub or Chevin bis Haunts,
and to Angle for him.*

THE *Chub*, though large, is a very timorous Fish, he is found in large Rivers having Sandy or Clayey bottoms, delights much in Streams shaded with Trees, as also in holes, where many of them consort together: he is in Season from the middle of *May* till after *Candlemas*; you may take him with dibbing on the top of the Water, but in the hot Months he keeps mid-water, in the colder Weather Angle at the bottom with the Ledger Bait

He bites from Sun-rising till Eight, and from Three till Sunset: the large one when struck is

is soonest tired, the less will struggle longer, and in Sunshiny Weather they bite, in Winter the middle of the Day.

He scarcely refuses any Bait, if not too large ; as, Lampryspride, the Eel's Brood, Dew-worms, large Red-worms scoured in Moss and Gravel, Clap-baits, small Snails, White and Black Cheese Paste, the Marrow of an Ox or Cow's Back, a Beetle with the Legs off, and all sorts of Baits bred on Trees, Plants and Herbs, Cod-baits, Broods of Wasps, Hornets and Humble-bees, the Fat of Rusty Bacon, Dors, Grasshoppers, also Rasberries, Black-berries, Mulberries; a Fly, and a Cod-bait, and an Oak-worm on the Hook together, infallibly takes him in the hot Months.

When he is taken, he must be eaten the same Day, or is little worth, most esteem his Head the best part.

Dace

*Dace or Dare, and Roach, their
Haunts, Baits, &c. and how to
angle for 'em.*

AS these delight in Ponds or Rivers with gravelly bottoms or Sand, so they love deep clear Waters shaded with Trees, either in Rivers or elsewhere: The *Dace* spawn about the middle of *March*, and are in season three weeks after. The Flesh is soft, and sweet in taste, and in *Italy* they are pickled as Anchovies.

You must angle for the *Dace* within 2 inches of the bottom, and sometimes the Bait may touch it if it is Worms, but if with Flies, at the top of the Water, or within an inch.

The *Roach* spawns about the middle of *May*, and is so healthful, that his soundness has created a common Saying, tho' it often causes some to tell Lies.
The

The best *Roach*, by reason of the abundance of Soil, are found in the *Thames* near *London*. Angle for him about two foot in the Water: In temperate Weather they bite all day long. The Float-Angle takes 'em best.

Their Baits are numerous as their Fry, viz. Worms bred on Trees, Plants, or Herbs, Gentles, Codbaits, Grasshoppers with the Legs off, Flies artificial or natural, particularly the Ant-Fly, Meadow-worms scowr'd, Bread-corn boil'd. The *Roach* in Ponds is chiefly found under the Water-docks, if there be any, and indeed few small come amiss to them; herein they excite Lust, and cure Fevers.

The Flounder or Flook's Haunts, Baits, and Angling.

IT is properly a Salt-water Fish, and is no where but in Ri-

Rivers that have communication with the Sea ; he's brought up first by the Tide, and loosing himself into fresh streams, he after some time minds not his way back again. He loves gentle streams, gravelly and sandy bottoms, is very shy, and not easily taken : He bites all the day in *May, June, July*, and the beginning of *August*, tho' he will nibble much about the Hook, and suck off the Bait, if you be not wary to keep it in motion, which hinders him from seeing the Hook, if he does, away he flies from it, sometimes he's in the deep, and sometimes in the shallow. He takes scoured Meadow or Marsh-worms, Earthworms, Gentles, the brood of Wasps, Gilt-tails and Brandlings. He is to be angled for with the Float, and your Bait must touch the Ground. He's of good Nourishment, strengthens

thens the Stomach, causes Appetite, and helps the Spleen.

The Minow or Perch, Loach, and Bull-head or Millers-thumb, Lampreys.

AS they're rather Baits for other Fish than valuable in themselves, so the first is taken with small Worms, Brandlings, and Gilt-tails; the two latter with Gilt-tails, Meadow-worms at the Ground. *Lampreys* are taken as the *Eel*, being much of that nature, therefore I avoid enlarging thereon.

Minows feed by licking one-another; the *Loach* is good for Women with Child, and are all very nourishing.

Observations on, and Rules for, Natural Fly-angling.

IT is a nice point in Angling, requiring a quick or sharp Eye.

Eye and wary Hand; it is term'd by Artists *Dibbing*, *Dipping*, or *Dapeing*, and is performed on the surface of the Water, or at most sometimes not letting the *Bait* sink above or 3 inches under, nor that, unless the *Oak-fly* for the *Chub* or *Trout* has joined to it a *Clap-bait* or *Cod-bait*.

This must ever be done in clear Water, without Lead or float, in the Evening of a hot Day, but in a hot calm Day is best, and the still Deep is to be preferred before the Stream; though on the side of a Stream when the Water is clearing after great Rains or a Flood, is very proper; and all hours you may dib with the green *Drake*; but if you needs must do it in the Stream, use the *Stone-fly*, which is proper early or late; if it be windy in the Evening, make the Artificial *Stone-fly*,
E which

which I shall teach you to make for then in the Stream the Fish rise best, and are the sooner taken; and if you pull off the Wings you may angle in the Water with it; 'twill also take very much in a Stream near the bottom, but you must take care to keep out of sight as much as possible, and keep your Fly in motion, that it may appear to the Fish to be alive.

In dibbing for *Dace*, *Roach* or *Chub* let not your motion be swift, if you can perceive any of 'em coming toward it, but make two or three short removes, as if there were a Rest or the Fly were swimming or playing; then let it gently glide with the Stream if possible toward the Fish; but if it be slow or standing Water, you must keep it moving with your hand not just upon him, but sideways and sloping by him, lest it should

ould 'scape him, 'twill make
him mind it the more ; for only
the Trout, if it be mov'd swiftly,
will of any certainty follow it.

In a Calm, dibbing is not so
seas when a pretty good Gale
sirs the Water, for then nei-
ther you nor the Deceit put on
the Fish by an artificial Fly is
easily discover'd ; and then
few natural Flies at liberty can
be on the Water ; but for want
of choice they will snap at the
first that comes in their way,
biting more eagerly thro' hun-
ger. If they will not rise at the
top, try 'em a little lower, for
they will be sooner taken, as
the Roach particularly, by dib-
bing under Water than at top.
The Roach, Dace, and Chub will some-
times be pleas'd with an artifi-
cial Fly, especially if an Earth-
worm, Cod-bait, Earth-worm, or
gentle be put on the point of
the Hook ; or an Oak-worm is

very pleasing on the top or under the Water.

At dibbing and trailing Trout and *Salmon-Smelts* will take an artificial Fly well, particularly the *Stone-fly* and *Green-drake*, early, or late in the Evening: And if you fish for *Salmon-Smelt*, *Roach*, *Chub* or *Dace* with the *Dub-fly*, put on a Gentle, Wasp, Cod-bait, or Clap-bait; let it stand well on the point of your Hook when the Wind furls the Waters, and few Flies appear on or over it this is the best time to angle with the Fly, either natural or artificial; for, having no variety or choice, they will quickly take your Bait. If it be a Sunshiny Day, get under the shade of Trees if you can, that neither your Shadow nor that of your Rod may appear, and so fright 'em away. If you find the Fish rise not toward the top

unk your *Fly* by degrees, and
 try even to middle-water, for
 before the sorts of *Flys* are na-
 turally in season, the *Fish* very
 rarely rise at 'em; wherefore
 to know this, that you mistake
 not in your baiting, observe
 what *Flys* are on the Water, or
 lying near over it, or are on
 the Bushes or Trees near Ponds
 or Rivers, and that *Fly* which
 swarms there most is chief in
 season, and is to be used either
 natural, or to be imitated by
 Art. Some open the first *Fish*
 they take, and look in its Sto-
 mach to see what indigested
 food there remains, and from
 thence take their measures, tho'
 uncertain; for either it must
 be partly consum'd, or so disco-
 ur'd that it cannot well be
 known; besides, *Fish* for ex-
 ceed Hunger take in such
 food at one time as at another
 they altogether dislike.

You may for other Baits found in Rivers, grope in the sandy Bank-sides within the Water, under the Stones, or observe what Insects are playing or swimming in or on the surface of the Water, and accordingly provide your self seasonable Baits. In *May* you may dibe with Oak-flies, Fern-flies, or Oak-worms for *Trout*, and all Summer with the Fern-fly for *Chub*, keeping the Bait moving on the top of the Water, as if it were alive, and your self out of sight as much as possible.

Artificial Fly-Angling.

ARtificial Dub-fly or Cast-fly Angling is somewhat more difficult, and requires more Cunning than the former, being more readily learn'd by seeing it done, than by printed

Bait Directions; however, I doubt not but to give a satisfactory account of it to the Angler.

The first thing to be materially consider'd is, to know and chuse the proper colours of Flies in season when you angle, and these must be proportion'd to the places you fish in; for there are different haunts of Flies, and are found much earlier in some places than in others, as the Season proves hot or cold; a warm Spring brings them early, but the contrary later sometimes by a Month, and always sooner in high Grounds than in those that are low, marshy, or boggy.

And tho' sometimes upon disgust Fish suddenly change their Fly, yet it is not usual until they have been glutted with one sort, which must be some time first, and when that sort of Fly is near going out;

nor will they freely take 'em till they are at their best, and most plentiful: And it always follows, when one sort goes out another comes in; which you must have a special regard to observe, and make the change with 'em.

The Fly requir'd being got, your next business is, to make one in colour, shape, proportion of Body and Wings as like it as possible, always having the natural one as a Pattern: And to do this you must have in readiness Bear's Hair of divers colours, Camels Hair sad, light and of a middle indifferent colour, Badgers Hair, Spaniels Hair, Sheeps Wool, Dogs Hair, Hog-down, such as is comb'd from the Roots or Bristles of a Hog, Camblets and Mohairs of divers colours, Cow's Hair, abortive Calves and Colts hair, Furrs of Squirrels Tails, the
Tails

Tails of black Cats, yellow and dun Cats, of Hare's Neck, the Ferncolour'd Ferrets Fur, Martins yellow Fur, Filmers Fur, Tails of white Weasles, Moles, black Rabbits, Doun of a Fox's Cub, ash-colour at the Roots of Fox, Fur that comes off the Otter and Otter-cub, blackish and brown Badgers Hair that has been in a Skinner's Lime-pit; Hackles or Feathers about a Cock or Capons Neck, and such as hang loosely down each side the Tail, of various colours, particularly to make the Palmer-fly or Insect call'd the *Wool-bed*: You must have Feathers of all sorts of *Fowl*, and those colour'd ones requir'd that you can't get natural, you may dye.

You must likewise have *Caddows* or *Blankets*, from which are got Dubbings, or so off Cushions made of Skins of abortive Calves and Colts, like Silver

Wire, Gold Twist, Silver Twist, white and yellow Bees-wax for Ground-work, or to frame the Bodies and Heads on, as the nature of the *Fly* more or less requires it, and a neat pair of sharp pointed Scissars, to trim and shape the Work with.

How to make the Dub-Fly.

WEt your Materials, to know how they will hold colour, for, tho' dry, they may appear of the right colour, but may alter being wetted, and consequently be too light or too dark. This done, take the Hook in your left Hand, betwixt your Fore-finger and Thumb, the Shanks back upwards, and strong Silk of that colour the Fly requires, wax it with Wax of the same colour, then draw it to the head of the Shank betwixt your Finger and Thumb,

Thumb, and whip it about the bare Hook two or three times; draw your Line between your Thumb and Finger, holding the Hook so fast that it may only have space to pass by; so joining the Hook and Line, put on the Wings, fashion the Body and Head by twisting the Dubbing on your waxed Silk, and lapping it on, then work it by degrees toward the Head, and part the Wings of an even length, or the Fly will not swim upright; then turn it into a proper shape by nipping off the superfluous Dubbing from the Silk, so fasten and accoutre the Fly. It would be convenient to see one done by an experienc'd Angler, and then these Directions will be easie to you.

*Directions relating to Dub-flies,
and Angling with them.*

1. **W**hen you proportion your *Dub-fly*, consider the largeness or smallness of the Fish you intend it for, and be sure the Belly of it is of the exact colour, because that is most obvious.

2. Let not the Tail of the Fly be only to the bend of the Hook, and not come unto the bent of it.

3. If the *Trout* at the top of the Water refuse it, the Day is not proper for it, or the Fly is either out of season or ill made.

When you angle with the *Dub-fly*, it must be in such a River or Water as is clear, after Rain, or in a River a little discolour'd with Moss or Bogs, in moorish places, or else in a cloudy or gloomy Day, when the

the Water is stir'd by gentle gales; or if the Winds be pretty high, they will rise in the plain Deep, but in little Wind, the best is to angle in the Stream.

Keep your Fly in continual Motion in all Weathers, to prevent the Fish from discerning the Fraud; in clear and low Water, let the Body of the Fly be the smaller, and the Wings very slender. In dark Weather and thick Water, let the Fly be of a darkish colour, but it must be *pretty large* Body and Wings, the better to be discover'd; in a clear Day, a light-colour'd Fly is preferable.

A Rod for the Dub-fly should be five Yards at least, and the Line about seven, or somewhat more, if the Water be free from Incumbrance of Weeds, &c. and to adapt your Fly to the colour of the Water more properly, have three of the sort,
the

the one Light, the next a degree Darker, and the third the true colour of the Natural Fly; by trying all which, you may gain the more Experience, for one of them cannot well miss. In slow Rivers, muddy and slimy bottom'd in great Droughts expect little Success, but rather chuse Pebbly, Sandy, or Stony Bottoms, in a running Stream, which much cools and refreshes the Fish in the hot Months.

Let your Eye be steady on what you are about, and your Hand ready to strike when it is convenient, which is with the rising of the Fish; or he, finding his mistake, will throw out the Hook again: But for a great Fish, I must hold it proper to let him turn his *Head* with the Bait, which will less strain your Tackle, for so he will strike himself, and then do it moderately.

Upon Casting, do it with a little

little circling about your *Head*, by waving the *Rod*, or else the *Fly* may with too smart a *Jerk* be apt to snap off; cast the *Fly* behind a *Trout* at his rising, and so, with a gentle *Hand*, draw it over his *Head*, so that not scaring him, he will quickly take it, if it be the right colour.

In *Casting*, observe to do it always before you, that it may fall on the *Water*, and no part of the *Line* dash, to scare away the *Fish*; and do it if you can without making any *Circle* in the *Water*: But if the *Winds* be high, some part must be in the *Water*, to keep the *Fly* from being blown out. Take your standing so, if possible, that the *Sun* may be in your *Face*, and the *Wind* to your *Back*.

In still or slow *Water*, cast your *Fly* almost a-cross the *River* or *Pond*, and draw it towards you gently a little way, that

that you break not the Water, or put it in trouble, and let it bear with the Current, if there be any, fishing downwards and not upwards of the *River*. Thus having, as I hope, given plain Instructions in these Matters, to be understood by easy Capacities, I proceed to describe Artificial Flies, for the proper Month of Angling with them.

Artificial Flies, proper in the Month of the Fishing-Season, how to make them.

IN *February*, The Palmer-fly or Plain Hackle must have a rough black Body, which may be done with black Spaniel's Hair, or the Whirl of an Ostridge Feather, and the Red Hackle of a Capon, all over.

The Prince Dun, this may be Dubbed of the Down of a Fox Cub, with Ash-colour'd Silk,
the

the Wings of a Stare's Feather; this must be made little.

The little Red, Brown Dub, with the soft Hair on the black spot of a Hog's Ear, the Wings of *Mallard's* Feathers, near the white, wrap it on with red Silk.

March. The Green-tail may be made of the brown Hair of a Spaniel, taken from the outside of the Ear, and a little from the extream of the Tail.

Morish Brown may be Dubbed with Black Sheep's Wool, Red Silk, and the Wings made of a Partridge's Wing-Feather.

Thorn-tree-fly Dub of a very good Black, mix a little *Isabella* colour'd Mohair; with it make a little Body, and the Wings of a *Mallard's* brightest Feathers.

The early *bright Brown* make of the Hair of a brown Spaniel, that of the Flank of a red Cow, and Wing it with the grey Feather of a wild Duck.

April.

April. The Violet-fly, which takes excellently from the sixth to the tenth, make of Bear's Hair a light Dun, mix'd with Violet-stuff, Wing it with the greasy Feathers of a *Mallard*: The Horse-flesh-fly, which lasts all this Month, Dub with Pink colours, Blue *Mohair*, and Red *Tammy*, let the Head be a dark Brown, and the Wings of a light colour.

The small bright Brown is very well taken in a clear Day and Water, make it of Spaniel's Fur, with a light Grey Wing.

May. The Green Drake, an excellent killer, Dub on a large Hook with *Camel's* Hair, bright *Bear's* Hair, soft Down comb'd from the Bristles of a *Mog*, mix yellow Camlet; let the Body be long, and Rib it with green Silk mixt with yellow; let the Whisks of his Tail be the long Hair of *Sables*, his Wings the light

of Angling. 111

light Grey Feather of a *Mallard*, dy'd Yellow.

The Stone-fly Dub, with Dun Bear's Hair, mix it with a little brown and yellow Camlet, that she may be yellower on the Belly and Tail than in any other part, to be the better lik'd by the Fish, who mostly eye the Belly of Baits; and to adorn it the more, place two or three Hairs of the Beard of a Black Cat on the top of the Hook, in the Whipping or Arming, and in warping on your Dubbing, staring one from another something upright: Rib her with yellow Silk; make the Wings long and large, of the dark Grey Feather of a *Mallard*, or other such-like Feather.

The Grey Drake comes in when the Green ones goes out, much of shape with it, but in colour differs, and must be made of a paler and more blewish yellow

low and green, his Ribs quite down his Body must be of black, with black shining Wings very thin, and may be made of the grey Feathers of a *Mallard*, the Down under Hogs Bristles, the black Hair of a Spaniel, and the Whisks of his Tail, of the Beard of a black Cat.

June. The Ant-fly is dubbed with brown and red Camlet, the Wing of the Feathers of a light-grey Pidgeon.

The Purple-fly, with Purple Wool, mix'd with light-brown Bear's Hair, the Wings of a Stare's Feather, Dub it with Purple Silk.

The brown Hackle make of the lightest brown Hair of a somewhat grown Colt, with a red Hackle or Cock's Neck-Feather over it, warp'd with *Hair-colour* or *Ash-colour'd Silk*.

July. Orange-fly, Dub this with Orange-colour'd Cruel or Wool,

Wool, and the Feathers of a Black-Bird's Wing.

The Wasp-fly. Do this with brown Dubbing, or else of the Hair of a black Cat's tail; rib it with yellow Silk, and make the Wings of the grey Feather of a *Mallard's* Wing.

The blue Dun must be made with the Down of a Water-Mouse, and the blewish Dun found on an old Fox; mix 'em well together, and Dub with sad Ash-colour'd Silk, the Feathers of a Stare's Quill will furnish you with Wings.

August. The late Ant-fly may be dubbed of the Hair of a Cow that is of a blackish brown, and for the tagging of the Tails wrap in some red, and make the Wing of a dark Feather: this Fly takes admirably.

The Fern-fly must properly be dubbed with the *Wool* taken from a Hare's Neck, of the colour

lour of Fern, when dry, make the Wings of the darkish grey Feather of a *Mallard*.

The Hearth-fly, Dub of the Wool of an aged black Ewe, with some grey Hair to accommodate the Body and Head, Dub with black Silk, and take the light Feather of a Stare for the Wings.

September. The little blue Dun make of the Fur of a Water Mouse, Dub it with sad Ash-colour'd *Silk*, and Wing it with the Feather of a blew Pidgeon.

The late Badger. Do this with *Badger's* Hair that is black, whip with red Silk, and use a darkish grey *Mallard's* Feather for the Wings.

The Camel Brown-fly, pull out for Dubbing the Hair in the Lime of old Wall, whip it with red *Silk*, make the Wings of a Stare's *lightest* Feather.

October. This Month is supplied

plied by the Flies of the former, for all being now upon their going away, any almost will do. And thus Reader keeping to my intended brevity, having pickt you out the best killing Flies from a great many more, you by knowing how to make these may easily imitate all others, having a natural *Fly* before ye, and chusing Materials suitable to its Colour, by shaping her according to the other; then promise your self Success in angling with her as directed.

Various, but very Curious Observations in Angling: divers ways to Angle, not commonly known.

NOte, that sometimes all sorts of *Fish* take Baits at the ground when but some sorts will take the *Fly* at the top of the Water; and therefore to angle for a *Trout* with a Worm, chuse

chuse the running Line without any Float, only small Plummets in their proper places. This is successful at the Ground, either in clear or muddy Water.

As for the latter, use a Line a little more than half the length of the Rod, and sometimes less than that length, and the lowermost *Links* must be at *least* three Hairs, and one at top of four, whereof have a Water-Noose or Loop to put it to another Link of four Hairs, having also a Loop or Water-Noose at its bottom; so proceed with Links of five or six Hairs a-piece, till you come to the top most, make the lower of *Chesnut* colour, or *Sorrel* brown. Then to your Reed or Cane have a top neither too stiff nor too feeble, but between both; the Cane about three Yards and a half long, and the top about a Yard and a half, or near two Yards, in one or two pieces

of Angling. 117

pieces, and five or six Inches of Whale - bone, smooth, round, and pliant.

Observe to Lead your Line as is consistent with the Water, in rough Streams more than in small gentle Streams, and least of all in still Water ; then carry the top or point of your Rod in a level with your Hand, and so you will by the point of your Rod perceive the Bite at the Ground, then strike strait and gently upwards, and by a little slacking *your Hand* before, you will give the Fish time the better to take the Bait.

Some are of Opinion, if you know that a *Trout* bites, to strike at the first biting, but this is only allow'd in clear Water for *Salmon-Smelts, Trout, and Grayling* ; and the Bait is the best Red-worms scour'd, or a Brandling and Gilt-tail, turn'd Head to Tail, and run
F cross-

cross-ways through the middle under the Wings, and so you may do in muddy Water with other Worms, as two *Brandling* two *Meadow-worms*, &c.

Trout will seize on the Bait when it drags on the Ground, either in clear or muddy Water, but a large *Grayling* will rather rise a Foot or more at your Bait from the bottom, than descend.

If a large *Trout* you Angler for in muddy Water, then requires some Art in baiting your Hook, as suppose the Bait is a Dew-worm, here you must thrust the Hook in towards the Tail, a little above the middle and out again below the Head, then draw him above the Arming of the Hook, or Whipping, so put the point into the Head of the Worm, till it is very near the place where the point of the Hook first came out, and so draw back the Worm, and

tha

that part that was above the Shank. This Hook should be indifferent large.

To Bait two Worms in muddy Water for a *Trout*, &c. from eight to ten Inches : Take Meadow-worms or Brandlings, or a Brandling and Gilt-tail, and run the point of the Hook in at the Head down the Body, till it pass the Knot, or come to the middle of the Worm ; then strip it above the Arming or Whipping; not bruising it in any manner with your Fingers, so put on the other, by running the Hook in the same manner, and let the Head of it just cover the point of the Hook, then slip the first down, till the knots or middle of both Worms meet together ; and thus you may do by any other Worms ; for other Fish as by foregoing Directions you find they take them.

*Directions for Angling with the
running Line in clear Water.*

PUT a Gilt-tail and small Brandling on your Hook as before directed, well scour'd and here your Hook must be much smaller than in muddy Water, two or three of the lowermost Links of your Line of a single Hair, so rise from two to three, or four, of a grey or dusky White, the Line about two Yards shorter than the Rod, Leaded with a small black Plummet.

Angle with this in the stream always up it, in a River with a light Hand, still casting out the Worm before you; let the Rod be as the former: And thus you may angle for *Salmon-Smelts, Trout, or Grayling*, to whose proper Baits I refer you in my *Treatise of Baits in this Book*.

Di

*Directions for the Top - Water
Angling with a Worm.*

YOUR Line in this case must be longer than your Rod, without any Plummets or Float, drawing your Bait down and up the Stream, in a clear Day, with a gentle Hand, that it may glide as if it were swimming, and your Bait here must be a Gilt-Tail or Brandling, keep it from the Shoar, and free from entanglements of Weeds, Wood, Rushes, or other Incumbrances that hinder Sport.

*Farther Directions for Float-
Angling.*

HERE your Line must be two or three Foot longer than your Rod in Rivers, but in Ponds and Pits something shorter. Angling in clear Water

for *Salmon-Smelts*, *Trout*, or *Grayling*, you must put but one Hair next the Hook, but in muddy Water, and for other Fish, two or three, observing the running Line and Rod for the *Tench*, and proportion this to it, Lead it moderately, but so that it may keep the Line strait and even, but for *Tench*, *Carp*, *Barbel*, or *Chub*, your Rod and Line must have an additional strength in the thickness of the one, and the number of Hairs in the other; and your Float manageable in the *Water*, proportion'd according to the swiftness or slowness of the *Water*, but with one Worm, the *Water* being very clear; and observe for some sort of Fish, as, *Flounders*, *Salmon-Smelts*, *Bream*, and *Gudgeon*, your Bait must drag on the Ground, but for other sorts, as, *Tench*, *Roach*, *Bleak*, *Pike*, *Ruff*, and *Carp*, at
Mid-

or Mid-water ; for *Grayling* and *Pearch*, at six or nine Inches from the bottom. The *Chub* is often taken at Bottom, Mid-water and Top.

You may use the divers sorts of Baits, Angling with a Float, but Ground Baits are most frequently us'd, and with success.

Directions for Drabbling.

BY this, *Barbels* of large size are taken ; to do it completely, observe these Rules :

Have a strong Line of six Yards, which, before you fasten it to your Rod, must be put through a piece of Lead, that if the Fish bite, it may slip to and fro, and that the Water may something move it on the Ground ; Bait it with a pretty large Lob-worm well scour'd, and so by its motion the *Barbel* will be entic'd into the danger

F 4 with-

without Suspicion. The best Places are in running Water near Piles, or under Wooden Bridges, supported with Oaks floated and slimy.

Angling with the Ledger-Bait.

THIS is us'd for variety of Exercise, to give rest to the Angler, and so differs from others that are call'd *Walking Baits*, and this is, when the Bait continues to rest in one fix'd and certain place.

Here you must take off your Float, but let the Lead remain, and within half a Yard of the top of the Line wrap a thin plate of Lead, an Inch and a half long, and pretty broad, viz. about an Inch; so fasten your Line to your Rod, cast in your Bait either into a still flow Draught, or gentle Stream, and when it is at the bottom, you may stick your Rod in the Bank

of

of the River, or hold it in your Hand at Discretion, and by the bending of the Rod, or motion of the Lead at top, you will perceive when the Fish bite: give her some time, and strike contrary to where her Head lies. The *Chub* and *Eel* are successfully taken this way.

To lay Night-Hooks.

TO do this effectually, procure a small Cord, which may be about sixteen Yards long, and to this, at equal distances, tie five or six fine twisted Flax or Silk Lines, about eighteen Inches each, of the thickness of your Trowling-Line, fasten them so that they may be easily remov'd, and put on again, whip to the ends of each of them a pretty strong Hook, Bait with a Loach, Minnow, or Bull-head, the Fins and Gills cut off; or, these being

F 5 want-

wanting, the Seven Eyes, *Eel* Brood, small *Roach*, *Gudgeon*, the Pith of an *Ox* or *Cow's* Backbone, &c. will serve for the Fish, but the point of the Hook in a the Tail, and out of the Mouth, so that the *Fish's* Head may have a resting in the *Hook's* bent, and that the point may not be discover'd, cover it with a Worm, casting the Cord, by a Weight, over the River, Stream, or Pond, fasten both ends to stakes on either side; and be there early in the *Morning*, and expect *Chub*, large *Eels*, *Trout*, or *Pike*, but for a *Pike*, keep the Bait with a *Float* about a Foot or something more from the Bottom.

For this, to gather the Fish, you may Bait the Ground with Blood and Grains, or Sweet made up in Sweet Earth, taken from under the Green Soard, or Pastes, &c.

Choice

*Choice Receipts, or rare Secrets,
never before made Publick.*

TAKE Oyl of Amber, Rosemary and Myrrh, an equal quantity, infuse in them any Worms, or mingle Paste with them, and the Fish, if near, will hasten to the Bait so dipped, and then not have Power to go away, till she either nibbles off the Bait, or is taken.

Oyl of Water-Lillies, and the juice of Mulberries, is excellent to make up Paste with, especially with a few drops of Oyl of Peony-Royal in it, and the Fat of a Hedge-hog or Urchin.

Ground-Bait for Carp with unpickled Samphire bruised, and made into Balls, with Walnut Oyl. This likewise allures Tench and Bream.

Over-night mix Bean-flower with a little Honey, wet it with Rectify'd Spirits of Wine,

and a little Oyl of Turpentine, make it up into little Pellets, and such Fish as nibble it, when thrown in, will be stupified, so that in the Morning coming to themselves a little, they will bite very eagerly, as being, after their drunken Fit, exceeding hungry. This likewise is a sure detainer of them all Night in Summer, so that they will not wander from the place. *Nux Vomica*, scraped into Paste, makes them drunk, so that if the Water be shallow, you may go in and take them, when they rise and turn up their Bellies as if expiring, tho' in a little time they will come to themselves again; if the Water be deep, you may use a Landing Net.

The Fat of *Barnacles* or *Sea-Gulls* is extreemly coveted by Fish, if mix'd with the Juice of *Eringoes*, or *Sea-Holly*.
The

The *Craw* of a *Turtle-Dove* well scour'd is taken very eagerly by the *Pike*.

The *Fat* of a *Water Rat* takes *Pearch*, if the Bait be rubbed with it, as that of a *Mole* does the *Pike*.

*Some particular Observations on
Gudgeon-Angling.*

THE *Gudgeon*, tho' not over large, is approv'd, among other Fish, as a Dainty, being very wholesome Food. This Fish Spawns twice or thrice in the Year, he delights in sharp Streams, with Gravelly or Sandy bottoms, and shews the young Angler extraordinary good Sport, who not being well skill'd in chusing, or not well knowing how to come by other Baits, may take him with a small Red-worm on the Ground, or very near it, and
sel-

seldom, by reason of the toughness of his Mouth, is he lost when struck. In the heat of Summer they make to the shallows in Rivers, but when the Weeds in *Autumn* grow of a bad taste, or rot, and Cold Weather comes on, then they get together in deep places; and here it is properest to fish for them at the Ground, or a little above it, if you fish with a Cork or Float; but it may be done with a running Line on the Ground, without a Float: As for particular Baits, I have already discours'd of them, and among others, those relating to the *Gudgeon*.

A special Winter-Bait to get, and preserve.

WHen Plowing begins in *Autumn*, before any Frosts come that are forcible,
to

to make entrance into the Earth, observe where the Ploughs are going, if there be store of Crows lighted on the Ground, especially in that which is Heathy, Sandy, or Greenfeard, follow, and you will find a White Worm bigger than a Gentle, having a red Head, which is held to be bred of the Spawn or Egg of a Beetle, left in those holes she digs in the *Ground* under Horse or Cow-dung, which, in *March* or *April*, turns to a Beetle again: You may put about two Quarts of these into half a Bushel of the same Mould: when you gather them, put them in a Tub or other Vessel, where the Frost or Wind may not come to kill them; and by this means, when most other Baits are out, you may be provided all the seasonable times in Winter, and early in Spring.

They

They take in those Seasons
Bream, Carp, Roach, Dace and
Chub.

Gentles may be kept in Winter, in Bran, Moss and Scouring Earth, lightly over some Putrefaction, in which at the first laying them in the Ground, where the Frost cannot come at them, you perceive they begin to live.

Unseasonable Times to Angle in.

HAVING spoke much of proper Times to accommodate the Angler, I shall now speak somewhat more of unseasonable ones, that those who are ignorant in this Art, as to the Niceties of it, may not lose their Labour.

The two extreams of Weather are not proper, *viz.*
(1.) When great Droughts have parch'd the Earth, so
that

that the Rivers carry but low Currents when the Weather is excessive hot, in the heat of the Day, unless Clouds cover all, and Winds gently breath. (2.) In frosty or snowy Weather, or unhealthy Weather, for two reasons, *viz.* because you will little damage the Fish, but greatly injure your self.

In the Morning, either in the Spring or advancing of the season, if a hoary Frost happen, the Fish will be backward in biting that day, and little sport can be expected, for they will not freely rise, except in the Evening; and soon after they have spawn'd they will not bite to the purpose, till with Grass and Weeds they have well purged and scowr'd themselves, so that they may by that means recover their Strength and Appetite.

'Tis not proper to fish when
the

the North or East Winds are very sharp.

In Brooks that are small and clear, where the Water is kept up by Mills or Dams, it is not good angling, for there especially the *Trout* keeps her hole, and others bite faintly.

*Some other useful Observations
and Directions.*

1. **I**F you are doubtful what Bait will be taken, look in the first Fish's Stomach, and such Flies, Worms, &c. as you find therein, that kind at that time delights in.

Be sure always to keep your Shadow off the Water, and therefore let the Sun be in your Face, or on one side of you when you angle, keeping out of sight and making no noise; and when you are bent for *Trout*, you need make but three or four Essays with

with the Ground-bait or Fly ;
for if it comes not then to bite
or offer, either there's not any
there, or they keep close in
their holes.

If you fish for *Carp*, cut no
Weeds in the River, nor on
the sides, to make you a conve-
nient standing, for then they'll
perceive they are laid wait for,
and so forsake that haunt, not
returning a considerable time.

*A curious Paste with Oils to take
Fish.*

TAKE the flower of Lupins
three ounces, the Fat of a
Rabbit's Kidney an ounce, the
Juice of Horse-radish a quarter
of an ounce, Oil of Turpentine
three drams; mix these toge-
ther with a stiff hand, and make
them up into a Paste, with a
little Rabbits-wool felted in
with it, to strengthen it on the
Hook,

Hook, and it will take to admiration *Trout, Tench, Chub, and Roach*; 'tis an excellent *Ground-bait* for most River or Pond-fish. Proportionably to direction mix a greater quantity, adding a little Honey.

And thus have I given you in this small Book the whole Art of Angling; for by way of direction there needs no more: All that remains now, is to put it in practice, without which whatever can be said on this Subject signifies little.

To take the Smelt with an Angle.

AS this Fish generally lies at the Tails of Ships, or in Brooks, so you fish for him at half-tide, with a Gentle. The first you catch cut in small pieces about the bigness of a Gentle, bait your Hook with 'em, and you'll find sport to admiration.

To

To feed Fish in Ponds.

CAst in the Bowels and Entrails of great Fish, crackt Walnuts, fresh Cheese, lumps of White-bread, Fruit chopt small, all sorts of Salt-fish, and other suchlike Victuals; sometimes fresh Leaves of Parsley, Chippings of Bread or other Crusts; clotted Blood of Beasts, or the young Brood of Wasps throw into the Pond.

A fresh *Carp* salted six hours, and then fry'd in Oil and besprinkled with Vinegar wherein Spices have been boil'd, is the wholsom'st Fish that is; but be sure drink a Glass of Claret after it, and let sick People abstain from both.

Salmon and *Trout* well sodden in Water and Vinegar, and eat with sowre Sauce, are proper in
hot

hot *Fevers* and burning *Agues*, but not too often.

Barbels broil'd on a Gridiron or fry'd in Vinegar are very wholesome. If a Man drink the Wine wherein one hath been strangled to Death, he shall ever after despise all manner of Wine.

River Sturgeon sodden in Water and Vinegar, and eat with Fennel, doth cool the Blood.

River Lampreys choak'd with Nutmegs and Cloves, so fry'd with Bread, Oil, and Spices, is a good Dish.

A Female *Tench* baked with Garlick, or boil'd with Onions, Oil, and Raisins, may be eaten by Youth and cholerick Men.

Pikes -boil'd in Water with Oil and sweet Herbs, will firmly nourish.

Eels roasted with Oil and Coriander-seeds partly abates Phlegm in the Stomach.

Soles

Soles fry'd with Butter and eat with Sauce made of Wine, the Juice of an Orange, and grated Bread, is a dainty Dish, easie of digestion, and the best of *Fish*.

Secrets and Curiosities never before made publick.

To draw Fish into the Net.

WHen you set your Net put some live *Fish* into it, or for want, a piece of a dead one, and that will draw others to it; or if you put some flesh-colour'd Flowers into the Net of divers sorts, the smell or sight invites 'em to it: Or if you can get a *Fish* in the same River and at the same place, 'twill draw the rest, for they are acquainted with each other. A Bone of salt
Pork

Pork without flesh attracts 'em;

The Dregs of Hempseed is a great attracter of *Fish*; but of all other Paste for Nets or Ground-bait, on any occasion, take a young Hare, let it begin to smell strong, then roast it by a gentle fire, and baste it well with Honey; when it's half roasted put in the Dripping-pan Sippets of White-bread, and let it drop on it till the Bread is well soak'd; then take it out of the Pan and put in more, and so do till the Liquor is dry'd up. If you tie a piece of this Bread and a little of the Flesh upon any part of the Net's inside, 'twill entice the *Fish* mightily.

Take a *Dace*, *Roach*, or *Gudgeon*, run a small Wire within the Skin along the back part of the Ribs, let it come out at the Gills, so fasten a Hook to it, and stake it down, and let the Wire be fasten'd to a line as far as the

Heron

Heron can wade; the Fish will swim and live some time, then leave it when he swallows it, and he is catch'd: and thus the other *Fish-devourers* are catch'd in deeper Places.

A pleasant way to take Pike.

TAKE what quantity of blown *Bladders* you please, and at the *Mouth* of it tie a Line, longer or shorter, as the Water is in depth, Bait your Hooks artificially, and put them into the Water, and as the Wind blows them gently, the *Pike* will strike himself, and make pleasant *Diversion* by flouncing about; when spent, take him out: the same may be done by tying your Line at the Legs of *Ducks* or *Geese*.

To take Frogs to fish with.

IN the Night take a Torch, and set some dry *Straw* on fire,
G and

142 *The true Art*

and they'll make to it, and come
about you in the Water; stand
still and be silent, and they'll
not forsake the Light, so that
you may take small or great.

To take Carp.

TAKE a Door or Board
near as long as broad, then
flour it over 2 Inches, or there
abouts, with stiff Clay, that it
may not wash off, then stick it
full of Beans, about 4 Inches di
stant, gently put in, that they
may easily bite 'em off, then put
the end of the Board sloping
downwards into the Water, and
fasten a Cord, that must be sure
at the middle or end of the
Board, to some stump of a Tree
the next Morning, if the Carp
have eaten your Beans, then
put more, and then more, take
care the Bottom of the Water
where you put the Door, be
clean

me clean and smooth, after several Baitings, taking away the y^e Door, and cast in two or three handfuls of the aforesaid Beans, but if the Ground be Muddy, Weedy, or Rooty, let the Door be rebaited and return'd where it was, and then you may let all your Hook.

The way to order the Beans.

TAKE half a Bushel, and let them lie 8 hours in warm Water, then boil them in a large earthen Pot in four Ounces of spicing Honey, and 4 Grains of Musk, and let 'em boil a quarter of an hour, and preserve them to Bait the Door; now the Night before you fish, put some of your Beans aforesaid into some River-water then boil, when they begin to take bubble, put the quantity of two handful Beans of *Aloes Socatrina*, beat to the Pot, into a handful of
G 2 Beans,

144 *The true Art*

Beans, and let it boil a little; when cold, Bait the Door with them, and it will set them on scouring, and make them so hungry, that they'll bite at any thing; the next Morning Bait your Hooks with the biggest Beans, and let the point of your Hook just pierce the Skin of them, let not your Beans be bitter ones, let your Hook have a Foot of Line to trail on the Water, and your Line made of green Silk, and you'll have great Sport.

To catch Fish,

TAKE Nettles, Cinquefoin and chop small, then mix some Juice of Housleek with it, rub your Hands therewith, and throw it into the Water, and keep your Hands in the Water and the Fish will come to them that you may take them: Or take Heart-Wort and Lime

min

of Angling. 145

mingle 'em together, and throw it into a standing Water, and it will Fox them, that you may take them with your Hands.

To kill Otters, great Destroyers of Fish.

LAY near his Haunt an *Eel* slit on the Back, with some few Crumbs of *Arsnick* put into the slit, then sow it up again; place the *Eel* from the Navel upward out of the Water, and he'll eat it so far, and seldom farther, and it kills him.

To take a Heron, a Coot, Cormorant, Sea-pye, and Osprey.

TAKE a *Roach* or *Gudgeon*, run a small Wire along within the Skin, on the backside of the Ribs, then it coming out at the Gills, fasten a Hook to it, and take it down, and let the Wire

145 *The true Art*

be fasten'd to a Line as far as the *Heron* can wade; the Fish will swim and live some time, then leave it, and he'll swallow it; thus the other *Fish-devourers* are catch'd in deeper places. Lime a Stick, and put a Fish at the end of it, laying it on some Water-Leaf or Rushes, and it catches them when they take it.

To take a Moor-hen.

LAY Lime-twigs, or shoot them; and for *Cormorants* destroy their Nests, or shoot them. Take a *Kings-Fisher* observe his Haunts, and Lime the Twigs he usually sits on.

To kill Water-Rats.

PIN a square Board against the holes where they haunt which Board must have a great hole in the middle, just against their

their coming in or going out, fastned to the Banks, then make a Latch, and set on the outside of the Board, tiled like a Fox-Latch, on the lower part of the hole as before-mention'd, then put 3 or 4 *pricks* of Wire, to hold any thing that comes into it.

To take a Pike as he lies sleeping and sunning in fair Weather, with a Loop or Net.

March and August is the best time. Take a long Pole or Rod that is light and strait, on the small end fasten a running Loop of twisted Horse-hair and Silk, of a large compass, which gently draw on him, when it is 5 or 6 inches over his Gills, hoist him up, if 'tis a small Pike, draw it not so far on, and make no Noise in walking or speaking; if he lies so that you cannot conveniently noose him, touch his Tail with the Rod,

and he'll turn as you please; also with a Hand-net, putting it gently under Water, guide it just under him, and lift it softly, till you just touch him, and then do it as quick as you can.

To make and order Fish-Ponds.

Moorish Ground, and such as is full of Springs is best, the first breeds them well, the last prevents their being stoln; next, let your Pond be so ordered, that it may *receive* the Rain-Water that falls from the Hills, for that mightily refreshes 'em; and if your Pond can receive the Piis of Horses, and other Cattel, they'll *produce* the largest and fattest Fish. Let your Pond's Head be at the lowest part of the Ground, and let the Flood-gate have a quick and swift fall, that when you go to empty

empty it, you may not be too long about it : In building your Pond, the best way is to drive a Row of Stakes of 6 or 7 Foot long, and 6 or 7 Inches square, and at 4 Foot distance ; Elm is better than Oak, drive them in the length of the Pond's Head, and ram the first Row four Foot and a half deep, then they'll be strong. Next, dig your Pond, and throw the Earth among the Stakes and Piles ; when they are cover'd well, drive another Row over them, and ram the Earth in the void places, that it lie close and keep the Water in the better ; and thus you must continue Stake on Stake, raming the Earth till the Head be as high as you would have it.

Let the inside of the Dam be smooth, that no Current may have power over it ; let your Pond carry six Foot Water, and be 8 Foot deep, to receive the Rains

G 5

that.

that fall into it : floor the bottom with large Turfs of Flot-Grass, close join'd and stak'd down ; stake also on the Pond-side several Faggots of light Wood, but not Oak, for that's bitter and offensive ; these Faggots shelter the Fish, and after they cast their Spawn, preserve from Vermin, and preserve the young Fish from Devourers ; let them also have some retireing places by Roots of Trees, hollow Banks, both to cherish them in cold and heat, and preserve from Danger. *Carp, Tench, and Bream* store by themselves ; *Pearch* and *Pike* by themselves : Put into it either *Minnows* or *Dace*, but *Roach* are injurious to all Ponds and great *Breeders*. Ponds with strong Sandy Bottoms, that lie warm and out of the Wind, with Nut-Trees and Willows also shelter'd, are best for *Carp* to breed in, and new made Ponds breed

breed better than old, that are full of Weeds and Mud, therefore every 3 Years cleanse them from the Mud-filth. To make a breeding Pond or store Pond, sow it; put in all *Spawners*, or all *Millers*; Observe, that store Ponds afford the largest and fattest *Carp*. In a breeding Pond put three *Spawners* to one *Miller*. Draw your Pond about *Albottantide*, and keep of Females a sufficient Number for Breeding. Indeed, you ought not to kill any of them, *they'll* live and breed 50 or 60 Years; but you may kill all the Males that are above three Years old, and put the rest, that are three, two, or one Year old, into the Pond again, as many of 'em as the Pond will maintain; this do once every Year.

Mr. Worlidge says, that dead, heavy, and more gross Waters are most proper for *Carp*, *Tench*, *Bream*, &c; but especially *Carp*.

and those Ponds that are nearest the Sea, and whose *Water* is a little *blackish*, yield the best and fattest *Carp*; and, that if you cast into your Fish-Pond, thro' *which* there is but little *Current*, sometimes a Load of the refuse salt Earth, that as the saltness is cast out, and of no value, it improves 'em as Salt does *Pigeons*; and that *Trout-ponds* being made at the Head of a Chalky *Spring*, that they may feed at the very *Atoms* of Chalk that issues out of the *Rocks* with the *Water*, are a great Improvement to these Fish: Some, *says he*, feed them with Flesh, &c. but 'tis not, so good as their natural Food.

Feed your *Pike*, *Carp*, and other Fish, with Bread, Grains, Chipings of Bread, Entrails of Chickens, &c.

If you would have *Carp* large in *April*, the *Water* then growing low, cleanse the sides, where the

the Water is faln away, with a Rake; and then fow *Hay-Seed* round about, and rub it in well, and about *September* the *Grass* will grow, and the Water overflow it, and they feeding thereon, speedily become fat *Carp*, of a delicious taste.

Observation. Female *Carp* are 8 or 9 Years e'er they breed much, therefore 'tis requisite you should get some of that Age, to have *speedy* advantage by them, you ought to have 2 or 3, lest one should die, the Male ought to be 4 year old; put in to each Female 14 Males. A Pond of half an Acre will feed Yearly 400 *Carp*. To make them very fat and large, not only *Hay-Seed*, &c. as is already said, but if you take 'em out of the Pond, and put 'em into *Pits* or *Puddles* in Pastures, or deep Ditches in Meadows, they'll speedily grow very large. 'Tis said, *Carp* never

154 *The true Art*

never feeds but in the Summer-Season, and, that a deep Pond of 12 foot square, that lies *warm*, will yield 600 *Carp*.

Another says, That putrify'd and stinking Water injures *Fish* the worst of any thing, therefore cleanse your *Ponds* every 3 Years at least, of Wood, Sedges, and Filth. In Clay Countrys, *Ponds* are subject to *Mud*, therefore once in 7 Years drain 'em in the beginning of the Spring; put the *Fish* you preserve into smaller *Pits* or *Stews*, the other use as you please; then causing *Men* to tread the *Mud* with their *Feet*, the *Eels* will rise out, then take them, afterwards let the *Men* throw out the *Mud*, and fill it, which is good *Compost* for *Land*; then sod the bottom and sides of the *Pond* with *green Sods*, and fix 'em hard in with *Stakes* of *Sallow*; these sides will nourish the *Fish* exceedingly.

This

This done, if there is no fresh Spring in the *Pond*, then lade the Water back again into it, then drawing your Sluces, take out your store of Fish, and put them again into your *Pond*, and observe that there be two parts Spawners, and a third Millers. These Pits and small Stews are best for feeding; therefore always keep them with fresh Water, and plac'd so one by another, that you may empty them when you please; once in three Months put fresh Sods on the Banks and Bottoms, of the fruit-fullest Grass: You shall put in to them store of *Roach*, *Dace*, *Minnow*, *Loach*, and *Millers-thumb*, for the bigger Fish to feed thereon, also *Garbage*, and the Blood of Sheep, Calves, Hogs, and the like, will fat Fish speedily; for as Fish in *Rivers* have ever something brought them to feed on, so those imprison'd in *Ponds*,
and

and want that Help, must be
reliev'd, or perish: Feed them
also with Grains, Curds, Chip-
pings of Bread, and any sort of
Grain, thrown into the Ponds
Morning and Evening.

*How to Fish in Hackney-
River, with the Names of
the best Stands, and man-
ner of making the best
Tackling to Fish there.*

To make the Tackle.

PROvide an Angle-Rod of
four yards, and Hooks of all
sizes; get some strong, round,
white, or grey Horse-hair, Silk
to whip your Hooks, and Wax
to wax the Silk: then get some
Swan and Goose-Quill Floats;
but for *Barbel*-Lines, you may
buy

buy cheaper of Hair or Silk than you can make them; being so provided, make first a Line for *Chub*, putting 8 Hairs in the first Link next the Rod, and leave out a Hair in every Link, putting 4 or 5 Hairs at the bottom, to which whip a *Hook* of proportionable bigness; put on one of the largest Floats you have, and Lead sufficient to cock it.

But for *Dace* or *Roach*, exceed no more than a Hair or 2 next the Hook, for the finer you fish the better, never forgetting your Landing-Hook or Net. These Lines ought to be a yard shorter than your Rods, for the better striking; in a swift Stream the Float must be larger, a midling size for slow Streams, and the Duck-Quill Float, which is the smallest, for still Waters; you must put your Shot 8 inches from the Hook; having a sufficient quantity of Tackling, get 2 or 3 Penny-

Pennyworth of *Ground-bait* and *Paste*, and go to *Causus* or *Marysbole* to fish, first Plumming the *Ground*, then throw in your *Ground-bait*, made up in little *Balls*, putting a *Pebble-stone* in the middle to sink it; having thrown in 5 or 6 *Balls*, put on your *Hook* a little piece of *Paste* made up round, and fish there, and at the first bob of your *Float* strike gently, and you need not fear sport. In the second *Meadow* on the left hand, beyond the *Ferry*, under the hollow *Tree*, in the midst of the *Meadow* is an excellent *Stand*. Having fill'd your *Basket* with *Roach* or *Dace*, or the *Wind* being high, that you can't well *Angle* for them, then fish for *Chub*, which in *Hackney* are very large, therefore provide a *Line* as before directed; keep from the side of the *River*, till you can but just see your *Float*, bait your *Hook* with a *Pellet*,
and

and throw in a Ball of your Ground-bait of the bigness of a Walnut, broke between your Fingers, let your Hook follow it, and you may catch one in 8 or 10 flings, or there is none there, trying two or three likely places, ten to one but you catch a *Chub*, but if you should fail in *Chub* Fishing, then Drabble for *Barbel*, which to do, you must have a strong Line 6 yards long of Hair and Silk, having a Bullet on it to move up and down, being Baited with a Lob-worm, in all likelihood you'll catch a *Barbel*. To make the Ground-bait, cut a twopenny-Loaf into Slices, soak it in a Platter of fair Water a quarter of an Hour, pour the Water from it, and with Bran make the Bread into a stiff Paste, and then into Balls for your use. To make Paste out of the Crust of a White Roll two days old, hold it in your hands being clean,

two

two *minutes* in fair Water, then working it in your Hands, it will become a stiff Paste. To draw to a Conclusion, if you would set out Fisherman like, then fail not to have with you a good Coat for all Weathers, an *Apron* to put *Ground-Bait, Paste,* and Stones in, a Basket to put Fish in, a neat Rod of four foot in several pieces one in another two or three Lines of all sorts, spare Hooks, Lines, *Floats,* Silk, Wax, Plummets, Caps, and a Landing Net, &c. and if you have a Boy to go with you, a *Good Neats Tongue* and a *Bottle of Canary* should not be wanting, to the Enjoyment of which I leave you.

Secrets of Fish in general.

GET Origanum, Savory,
Elder, of each 3 drams,
Bark

Bark of Frankincense, Myrrh, Sinoper, of each 8 drams, half a pound of dry'd Barley-meal dissolv'd in pleasant-scented Wine, Hogs-liver broil'd three ounces, as much Goats-suet, and the like quantity of Garlick; beat all these severally, then mingle thin Sand with them, and put 'em about an hour or two before into the place where Fish are, and surround it with Nets. Some put in the Herb *Delphinium* the masculine, but they first pulverize and sift it. This will so allure the Fish that you may take 'em up with your Hands. Others take half a pound of Garlick, and as much Sesama-seed torrefied, Peony-royal, Origanum, Thyme, Elder, Savory, wild Stayesacre, of each 32 drams, Barley-meal dry'd half a pound, Spelt as much, Bark of Frankincense 16 drams; mingle all these with Earth

Earth and Bran, and cast 'em into the Water.

How all sorts of Fish may with ease be brought to one place.

GEt the Blood of an Ox, a Goat, a Sheep, Dung of Oxen, Goats, and Sheep out of the small Guts, Thyme, Origanum, Peony-royal, Savory, Elder, Garlick, Lees of sweet Wine, of each alike; the Fat or Marrow of the same Creatures a sufficient quantity; beat all these separately or together, make 'em into lumps, and cast 'em into Fish-ponds, or where Fish are an hour before, and so cast your Nets round about.

To take all sorts of Fish.

GEt the Blood of a black Goat, Lees of sweet Wine, a quantity of dry'd Barly-meal, mix

mix 'em with the Lungs of a Goat cut in very small pieces, make 'em into Pellets, throw 'em into the Water, and you will soon find 'em answer your End effectually.

How to prevent any Person's catching Fish.

RUB his Line with a little Salt, or strew some about it on the Water, and you will find no Fish will bite.

To invite Fish.

IF you take *Cocculus Indi* and make little Balls of with Cummin, old Chee, Wheat-flower, and Wine, (let the Balls be no bigger than Pease) and throw them into a standing Water or calm places where Fish are, all that taste of it will be presently stupify'd, swim-

164 *The true Art*

swimming to the Shore as if they were drunk, so that you may take 'em with your Hand.

To catch all sorts of Fish at any time, in any Pond or River.

GEt *Celtick* Spike 4. leaves
Cyprus one leaf, Parsley
of *Macedonia* as much as an *Egyptian* Bean, Cummin as much
as you can hold with your Fingers,
Dill-seed a little; powder
and sift 'em, then put it into a
Cane, and when you are minded,
wash Earth-worms, put 'em
into a Vessel, and mingle with
'em of your usual Bait what you
judge sufficient, making the
w^hole up in your Hands together
with the Earth-worms, so
putting it into an old Shooe,
carry it along with you, and
bait the Fish therewith.

FINIS